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Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and its relevance to the Arab region

Summary

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (henceforth the Global Compact for Migration), to be adopted in Marrakesh, Morocco, on 10 and 11 December 2018, is an unprecedented milestone in global cooperation towards a common framework that addresses the challenges and opportunities of migration governance. It was built on a State-led, intergovernmental and participatory process that included a consultation phase, a stocktaking phase and an intergovernmental negotiation phase. It reflects a common understanding of the challenges faced by countries and migrants, and a commitment from Member States of the United Nations to work towards achieving a cooperative framework that includes 23 objectives and a range of proposed actions to accomplish those objectives. The Global Compact for Migration acknowledges shared responsibilities to respect, protect and fulfil migrants' human rights, promote the security and prosperity of all communities, mitigate adverse drivers and structural factors that push people to migrate, and reduce the risks and vulnerabilities faced during migration cycles.

Executive Committee members are invited to take note of the developments leading to the adoption of the Global Compact for Migration. They are also invited to take note of the importance of regional cooperation in the implementation of its objectives, and of key areas where the secretariat of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) can offer implementation support, follow-up and review at the regional level, including by providing knowledge and technical expertise, building effective partnerships, and strengthening existing dialogue and consensus-building platforms.

CONTENTS

	Paragraphs	*Page*
Introduction	1-3	3
Chapter		
I. DEVELOPING THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR MIGRATION	4-15	3
A. Consultation phase	9-12	4
B. Stocktaking phase	13	5
C. Negotiation phase	14	5
D. Drafting and revision	15	6
II. OVERVIEW OF THE TEXT OF THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR MIGRATION	16-24	6
A. Preamble	16-17	6
B. Vision and guiding principles	18	6
C. Cooperative framework	19	6
D. Implementation	20	7
E. Capacity-building	21-22	7
F. Follow-up and review	23-24	8
III. A FOCUS ON DATA	25-26	8
IV. GLOBAL COMPACT FOR MIGRATION AND THE ARAB REGION	27-38	9

Introduction

1. The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (henceforth the Global Compact for Migration) is an eagerly anticipated milestone in the history of global cooperation on international migration. It is the first United Nations global agreement on a common approach to international migration in all its dimensions. It aims to improve governance and international understanding of migration and to address the challenges and opportunities associated with migration, including its contribution to sustainable development. The Global Compact for Migration is grounded in the principles of State sovereignty, responsibility-sharing, human rights and non-discrimination, and its commitments are people-centred, gender-responsive and child-sensitive.

2. Member States of the United Nations will formally adopt the Global Compact for Migration at the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, to be held in Marrakesh, Morocco, on 10 and 11 December 2018. Following the unanimous adoption of the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants by the General Assembly of the United Nations in September 2016, a two-year drafting and negotiation process developed two separate and distinct compacts: the Global Compact for Migration and the global compact on refugees, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/280. Member States of the United Nations have undertaken to advance those compacts to ensure that migration is safe, orderly and regular and benefits both migrants and societies.

3. Arab States have actively contributed to the formulation of both compacts. The present document focuses on the Global Compact for Migration; nonetheless, the global compact on refugees is also significant for the Arab region.

I. DEVELOPING THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR MIGRATION

4. In December 2018, Member States of the United Nations will adopt the Global Compact for Migration, marking the completion of a two-year consultation, drafting and negotiation process and the start of implementation measures to make migration safe and beneficial for all.

5. The development of the Global Compact for Migration began with the New York Declaration, which calls upon Member States of the United Nations to undertake the following:

- Protect the safety, dignity, human rights and fundamental freedoms of all migrants, regardless of their migratory status, at all times;
- Address the drivers and root causes of large movements of refugees and migrants, including forced displacement and protracted crises, poverty, instability, marginalization and exclusion and the lack of development and economic opportunities, with particular reference to the most vulnerable populations;
- Support countries rescuing, receiving and hosting large numbers of refugees and migrants;
- Integrate migrants in humanitarian and development assistance frameworks and planning, by addressing their needs and capacities and those of receiving communities;
- Combat xenophobia, racism and discrimination towards all migrants;
- Develop, through a State-led process, non-binding principles and voluntary guidelines on the treatment of migrants in vulnerable situations;
- Strengthen the global governance of migration by bringing the International Organization for Migration into the United Nations family and through the development of a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

6. The development of the Global Compact for Migration consisted of a State-led, intergovernmental and participatory process supported by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for International Migration. The preparatory process involved the following three phases: the consultation phase, the stocktaking phase, and formal country negotiations. The inclusive approach of the consultative and stocktaking phases involved participation from Governments, United Nations organizations, civil society, the private sector, academic institutions, parliaments, diaspora communities and migrant organizations. This process resulted in the final negotiated text of the Global Compact for Migration, thus ensuring that it rests on internationally recognized and State-supported principles.

7. Member States of the United Nations agreed that the Global Compact for Migration should be non-binding. Instead, it reflects State commitments to facilitate migration for the benefit of all. The Global Compact for Migration upholds national sovereignty, the rule of law and due process; and acknowledges that international cooperation, through a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, is key to ensuring that migration has a positive impact for countries and migrants alike. Moreover, it emphasizes the need for coordinated cross-sectoral approaches to migration governance that engage State and non-State actors.

8. The Global Compact for Migration also acknowledges migration's core relevance to sustainable development. Fully aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which recognizes that migration is a "multidimensional reality of major relevance for the sustainable development of countries of origin, transit and destination", the Global Compact for Migration advocates the nexus of migration and development to achieve inclusive and sustainable development and to reach those who are most in need.

A. Consultation phase

9. Phase I of the preparatory process for the Global Compact for Migration was the consultation phase,[1] which included the following:

- Thematic sessions;
- Regional consultations;
- Stakeholder consultations.

1. *Thematic sessions*

10. Between April and November 2017, six thematic sessions[2] were held on facilitating safe, orderly and regular migration, with the following themes: human rights, social inclusion and discrimination; drivers of migration; international cooperation and governance; contributions of migrants and diaspora to sustainable development; smuggling and trafficking of persons and contemporary forms of slavery; and addressing irregular migration and regular pathways.

2. *Regional consultations*

11. Regional consultations[3] took place between August and November 2017, bringing together Member States of the United Nations at the regional and subregional levels to provide input on priorities and issues to be addressed in the Global Compact for Migration. United Nations regional commissions facilitated their member States' involvement in the regional consultations, often in partnership with other United Nations agencies, including the International Organization for Migration. Regional consultations were held for the

[1] The general concept note of the consultation phase is available at https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/general_concept_note_gcm_13042017.pdf.

[2] Details of the six thematic sessions are available at https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/thematic-sessions.

[3] Details of the regional consultations are available at https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/regional-consultations.

Latin America and Caribbean region in Santiago; for the Arab region in Beirut; for Africa in Addis Ababa; for Europe in Geneva; and for Asia and the Pacific region in Bangkok.

3. *Stakeholder consultations*

12. Consultations with other stakeholders, including migrants, were also facilitated by the United Nations Secretariat. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 71/280, stakeholder participation was maintained during all three preparatory phases. Informal and interactive multi-stakeholder hearings[4] at the global, regional and subregional levels took place in 2017 and 2018. Moreover, regional civil society consultations[5] took place in Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, Africa, North America, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Pacific.

B. Stocktaking phase

13. Inputs from the consultations with countries and stakeholders were discussed at a meeting held in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, from 4 to 6 December 2017. The purpose of the meeting was for participants to make proposals and recommendations on actionable commitments, means of implementation and partnerships, and elements for follow-up and review to be included in the first draft of the Global Compact for Migration. It marked the beginning of phase II of the preparatory process. The stocktaking meeting comprised 136 delegations, with a total of 897 participants from all regions, including 115 non-governmental stakeholders. The stocktaking meeting allowed delegations to consider the six thematic areas from phase I and the different dimensions of migration: human, community, local/subnational, national, regional and global.

C. Negotiation phase

14. Phase III of developing the Global Compact for Migration entailed formal intergovernmental negotiations, which were co-facilitated by Mr. Juan José Gómez Camacho, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations; and Mr. Jürg Lauber, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations. Six rounds of intergovernmental consultations and negotiations took place between February and July 2018, at which countries discussed key issues and concerns to reach a final agreement on the Global Compact for Migration.

Box 1. Global Compact for Migration: development phases

Inception

- **New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants unanimously adopted by the General Assembly at its seventy-first session,** September 2016

Consultation phase

- **Six thematic sessions,** May-October 2017
- **Regional consultations,** August-November 2017
- **Stakeholder consultations,** 2017 and 2018

Stocktaking phase

- **Stocktaking of outcomes,** December 2017

Negotiation phase

- **Formal intergovernmental negotiations,** February-July 2018

Timeline of drafts

- **Zero draft,** January 2018
- **Zero draft, revision 1,** March 2018
- **Final draft,** July 2018
- **Presentation to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session,** September 2018

Formal adoption, December 2018

[4] Details of the multi-stakeholder hearings are available at https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/multi-stakeholder-hearings-0.

[5] Details of the regional civil society consultations are available at https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/regional-civil-society-consultations.

D. Drafting and revision

15. The revised draft eliminates differentiation between refugees and migrants with regard to exercising their human rights and fundamental freedoms. It sets out 23 objectives under the cooperative framework of the Global Compact for Migration, and further defines its implementation and review process. The negotiated text was finalized on 13 July 2018, and presented to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session held in September 2018.[6]

II. OVERVIEW OF THE TEXT OF THE GLOBAL COMPACT FOR MIGRATION

A. Preamble

16. The preamble covers the legal foundations of the objectives set out in the Global Compact for Migration. It presents States' interests in maintaining the non-binding agreement and underlines the core values and intent of the agreement, including the mutual recognition of migrants' human rights and States' sovereign rights.

17. The preamble states that the Global Compact for Migration rests on international instruments and agreements on human rights and economic, social and cultural rights; treaties against trafficking in persons, organized crime and human smuggling; agreements for fair labour; and the 2030 Agenda. It outlines previous discussions on migration that led to international cooperation on this transnational phenomenon, such as the 2006 and 2013 United Nations high-level dialogues on international migration and development, and the Global Forum on Migration and Development launched in 2007. The preamble also recognizes the important contributions of member States, stakeholders and the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Making migration work for all"[7] to the preparatory process. It underlines the non-legally binding nature of the agreement and its aim to foster international cooperation between all relevant actors.

B. Vision and guiding principles

18. The section entitled "Our vision and guiding principles" outlines a common understanding of challenges faced by countries and migrants, and the need to strengthen knowledge and analysis of migration through improved collection and dissemination of quality data. It acknowledges shared responsibilities between States and the United Nations to address each other's needs and concerns, and to respect, protect and fulfil human rights, while promoting the security and prosperity of all communities, mitigating adverse drivers and structural factors that hinder peoples' ability to maintain sustainable livelihoods in their own countries, and reduce risks and vulnerabilities faced by migrants. Moreover, it sets out a unity of purpose, which outlines the principles underpinning the Global Compact for Migration.

Box 2. Guiding principles of 'unity of purpose'

People-centred
International cooperation
National sovereignty
Rule of law and due process
Sustainable development
Human rights
Gender-responsive
Child-sensitive
Whole-of-government
Whole-of-society

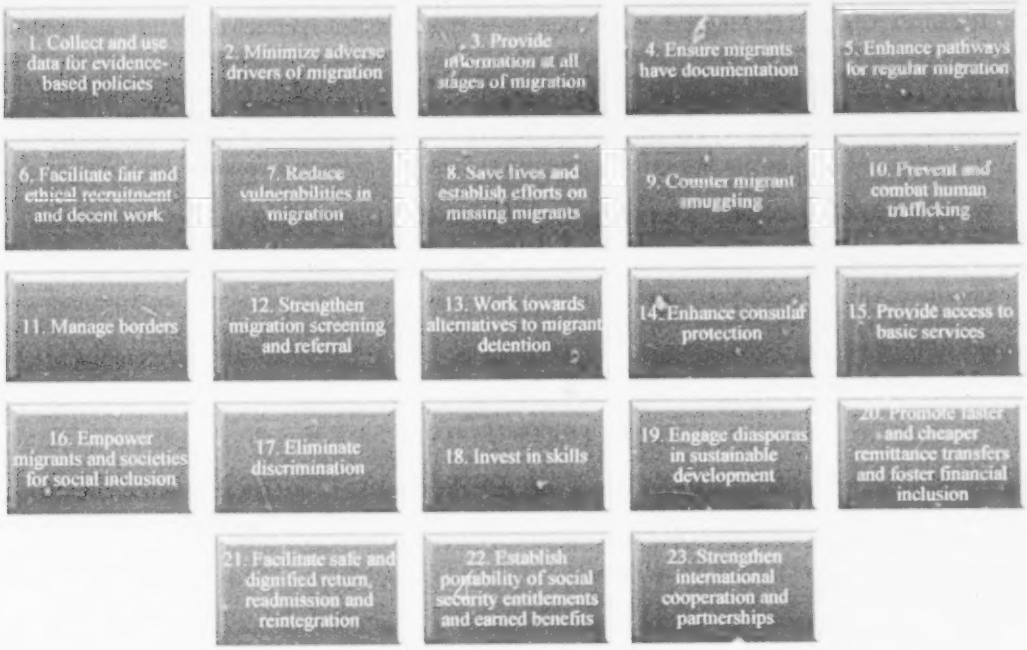
C. Cooperative framework

19. The Global Compact for Migration includes a section entitled "Our cooperative framework," which contains 23 objectives and respective actionable commitments.

[6] The intergovernmentally negotiated and agreed outcome is available at https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/180713_agreed_outcome_global_compact_for_migration.pdf.

[7] Available at https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/sg_report_en.pdf.

Box 3. Objectives for safe, orderly and regular migration


1. Collect and use data for evidence-based policies
2. Minimize adverse drivers of migration
3. Provide information at all stages of migration
4. Ensure migrants have documentation
5. Enhance pathways for regular migration
6. Facilitate fair and ethical recruitment and decent work
7. Reduce vulnerabilities in migration
8. Save lives and establish efforts on missing migrants
9. Counter migrant smuggling
10. Prevent and combat human trafficking
11. Manage borders
12. Strengthen migration screening and referral
13. Work towards alternatives to migrant detention
14. Enhance consular protection
15. Provide access to basic services
16. Empower migrants and societies for social inclusion
17. Eliminate discrimination
18. Invest in skills
19. Engage diasporas in sustainable development
20. Promote faster and cheaper remittance transfers and foster financial inclusion
21. Facilitate safe and dignified return, readmission and reintegration
22. Establish portability of social security entitlements and earned benefits
23. Strengthen international cooperation and partnerships

D. Implementation

20. The Global Compact for Migration acknowledges the importance of cooperation between States, and of support from the United Nations system, to successfully implement the objectives. It requests the Secretary-General to build on and employ the United Nations system's technical expertise to support implementation. It calls for ensuring coordinated efforts at the global, regional and country levels to support Member States' implementation efforts. It also assigns a lead coordinating and servicing role to the International Organization for Migration to support coherence and implementation. Furthermore, it recognizes that implementation coordination with migrants, civil society, migrant and diaspora organizations, cities and local communities and other stakeholders is crucial for success.

E. Capacity-building

21. The Global Compact for Migration states that additional capacity-building efforts are required to support implementation and provides for the establishment of a capacity-building mechanism to support Member States. Such a mechanism will allow Member States, the United Nations and other stakeholders, including the private sector and philanthropic foundations, to contribute technical, financial and human resources to strengthen capacity and foster multi-partner cooperation.

22. The capacity-building mechanism will consist of the following:

- A connection hub to facilitate demand-driven, tailor-made and integrated solutions;
- A start-up fund for initial financing for project-oriented solutions;
- A global knowledge platform as an online open data source.

F. Follow-up and review

23. The Global Compact for Migration adopts a multi-stakeholder review approach under the framework of the United Nations, with review forums at the global and regional levels. At the global level, Member States can review the implementation progress and guide the direction of the work of the United Nations at the International Migration Review Forum, to be held every four years beginning in 2022. The Review Forum will replace the High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development. The Review Forum will result in a progress declaration to be considered by the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

24. The global level review will be complemented by regional, subregional and cross-regional processes, platforms and organizations, including the United Nations regional commissions and regional consultative processes. Regional reviews, to be held every four years beginning in 2020, and global discussions will inform the International Migration Review Forum. Existing forums, such as the Global Forum on Migration and Development, the International Dialogue on Migration and regional consultative processes, will also contribute to the International Migration Review Forum by providing data, evidence, best practices and recommendations related to implementing the Global Compact for Migration.

III. A FOCUS ON DATA

25. The Global Compact for Migration covers a multitude of migration facets; however, one central theme that is also new to this type of international agreement is data improvement through strengthened collection and dissemination of quality data. Section II of the Secretary-General's report entitled "Making migration work for all" conveys the dangers of migration policies based on discrimination and bias, rather than on human rights protection and evidence-based information.

26. Consequently, one of the core goals of the Global Compact for Migration is to promote data improvement to support evidence-based migration governance for the benefit of countries and migrants alike. Key actions to achieve this objective include the following:

- Harmonizing methodologies for data collection and strengthening analysis and dissemination of migration-related data and indicators;
- Improving international comparability and compatibility of migration statistics and national data systems, including by establishing a statistical definition of an international migrant and elaborating a set of standards to measure migrant stocks and flows;
- Developing a global programme to build and enhance national capacity in data collection, analysis and dissemination;
- Collecting, analysing and using data on the effects and benefits of migration, and on the contributions of migrants and diasporas to sustainable development;
- Supporting development and collaboration between existing global and regional databases and depositories for systematic consolidation of relevant data;
- Establishing and strengthening regional centres for research and training on migration or migration observatories to collect and analyse data;
- Integrating migration-related topics in national censuses to ensure timely analysis and dissemination of results;
- Conducting household, labour force and other surveys to collect information on the social and economic integration of migrants and make data available through public use of statistical microdata files;

- Enhancing collaboration between country units responsible for migration data and national statistical offices, including by using administrative records, while upholding the right to privacy and protecting personal data;

- Developing country-specific migration profiles to develop evidence-based migration policies;

- Cooperating with relevant stakeholders to develop research, studies and surveys on the interrelationship between migration and development.

IV. GLOBAL COMPACT FOR MIGRATION AND THE ARAB REGION

27. The Global Compact for Migration is particularly relevant to the Arab region, where the size of the migrant population expanded by more than 150 per cent between 1990 and 2017. In 1990, over 14 million international migrants lived in the Arab region, compared with over 38 million in 2017.[8] The proportion of migrants to population in the Arab region stood at 9.2 per cent in 2017[9] (with significant disparities across subregions) and is greater than the global average. The Arab region is also a place of origin for human mobility: 29 million people moved from Arab countries in 2017, with over 48 per cent of them (around 14 million) remaining within the Arab region.[10] The number of migrants, the impact of migration, and complex migration trends and patterns across the Arab region, including forced displacement, mean that the Global Compact for Migration is both timely and relevant for all Arab countries.

28. Member States of the United Nations in the Arab region have actively participated in all the preparatory phases of the Global Compact for Migration, including global, regional and subregional consultations. Non-government stakeholders also participated in global and regional stakeholder consultations.

29. Paragraph 22 (a) of General Assembly resolution 71/280 requests the regional economic commissions to cooperate with other relevant United Nations entities, Member States of the United Nations and stakeholders to discuss regional and subregional aspects of international migration and provide inputs to the preparatory process of the Global Compact for Migration. Pursuant to the resolution, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) held the Regional Consultation on International Migration in the Arab Region,[11] in partnership with the League of Arab States and the International Organization for Migration, and in cooperation with members of the Working Group on International Migration in the Arab Region. The Regional Consultation took place in Beirut on 26 and 27 September 2017 and brought together high-level representatives from 16 member States, including government ministers and senior officials, and representatives of United Nations agencies, civil society organizations, the private sector and academia.

30. The purpose of the Regional Consultation was to enhance member States' and other stakeholders' awareness of the global process leading to the adoption of the Global Compact for Migration; to discuss key migration issues, priorities and challenges in the Arab region; and to build a common understanding of the importance of the Global Compact for Migration as a framework to address priorities and challenges in the region. The Regional Consultation addressed the six thematic areas highlighted in General Assembly resolution 71/280, which were also simultaneously discussed at the global informal thematic sessions.

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[8] United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, "Trends in international migrant stock: the 2017 revision", International migration database. Available at http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data/ (accessed on 1 November 2018).

[9] Ibid.

[10] Ibid.

[11] Details of the Regional Consultation are available at https://www.unescwa.org/regional-consultation-international-migration-2017.

31. The Regional Consultation comprised five thematic sessions, focused on the regional aspects of the following topics:

- Migration drivers, trends and patterns;
- Decent work and labour mobility;
- Protection of migrants in vulnerable situations;
- Migration and development nexus;
- International cooperation and migration governance.

32. Each thematic session consisted of presentations and panel discussions, which included a representative of a member State, of civil society or the private sector, and an expert on migration. The ESCWA secretariat coordinated the research and drafting of regional issue briefs for each topic of discussion, which were provided to participants as evidence-based resources to inform discussions.

33. The results of the Regional Consultation were summarized in an outcome document, in the form of a Summary of key messages,[12] which included key regional priorities and principles. Priorities emphasized by member States included the human rights of migrants, decent work and labour mobility, migration and development, remittances and links with the SDGs, international cooperation and migration governance, addressing drivers of migration, and protection of migrants in vulnerable situations. A common understanding emerged on the importance of the Global Compact for Migration as a comprehensive framework to address global and regional opportunities and the challenges of international migration. The key messages were presented at the stocktaking meeting held in December 2017.

Achieving the Global Compact for Migration: regional collaboration and the role of the regional commissions

34. Successful implementation of the Global Compact for Migration requires significant coordination and capacity-building at the regional level. With the International Organization for Migration leading global coordination, the Global Compact for Migration calls on regional organizations to facilitate its implementation by Member States. In this context, ESCWA is committed to supporting its member States' efforts to operationalize the objectives of the Global Compact for Migration by providing knowledge and technical expertise, building effective partnerships, and enhancing existing dialogue and consensus-building platforms. Such efforts will contribute to enhancing regional ownership, peer learning and experience sharing, and to assessing progress and lessons learned.

35. ESCWA has a long history of coordination with the International Organization for Migration and the League of Arab States through the Working Group on International Migration in the Arab Region. Through this mechanism, member organizations have collaborated to address knowledge gaps on migration in the region. This Working Group produces the only regional documentation on migration trends and patterns specific to the Arab region, entitled the Situation Report on International Migration. The situation reports regionalize global and country-level data from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, document changes in migration policies by Member States of the United Nations in the Arab region, and provide analysis of relevant thematic topics according to current regional priorities. The next edition of the Situation Report on International Migration will focus on regionalizing the Global Compact for Migration to provide specific action steps and best practices for Member States of the United Nations on select objectives from the Global Compact for Migration.

36. ESCWA aims to support its member States' policy development and coordination efforts in the following areas, in close coordination with the International Organization for Migration and in collaboration

[12] Available at https://refugeesmigrants.un.org/sites/default/files/escwa_summary_of_key_msgs_en.pdf.

with the League of Arab States and other members of the Working Group on International Migration in the Arab Region:

Institutional capacity and preparedness

- Mainstreaming migration into development planning, including in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- Developing institutional structures, strategies and policy frameworks for migration governance;
- Building the capacity of relevant government counterparts, including through training workshops and technical assistance.

Centralized coordination under the umbrella of a designated body

- Establishing a coordinating authority at the national level that provides policy leadership, supports and monitors initiatives, coordinates projects across the Government to ensure they are aligned with overall strategy, and monitors and reports on results.

Focal points and ownership in all migration-related sectors

- Clearly defining and identifying migration portfolios and responsibilities across relevant institutions;
- Ensuring wide-reaching awareness of migration issues across government sectors and other stakeholders, and identifying focal points for expertise and cooperation.

Whole-of-government approach and mainstreaming

- Bringing together key stakeholders across ministries and government agencies, defining shared needs, and identifying potential gaps and redundancies in designing policies and implementing strategic goals.

Whole-of-society considerations

- Emphasizing the importance of effective cooperation among Governments, the private sector, trade unions, civil society organizations, migrant organizations and other relevant stakeholders, and adopting multisectoral approaches to migration, particularly in complex humanitarian, development and security settings;
- Generating platforms that facilitate dialogue and transfer of knowledge, experience and capacity of civil society, academia and the private sector.

Adequate and detailed data for evidence-based decision-making

- Strengthening the role of national statistical offices and building partnerships among various actors to gather and analyse evidence and data on migration drivers, patterns and trends, disaggregated by age, sex and migration status, among others, to create scientific grounds for the formulation of effective policies on migration;
- Enhancing technical assistance and capacity-building for the collection, analysis, sharing and dissemination of migration-related data across relevant thematic areas.

37. United Nations regional commissions are preparing for the adoption of the Global Compact for Migration at the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, to be convened in Marrakesh, Morocco, on 10 and 11 December 2018. In this context, a side event will be held by regional commissions on 9 December 2018 to discuss the criticality of partnerships for effective global and regional governance of migration, and highlight the regional priorities, opportunities and challenges of implementing the Global Compact for Migration. ESCWA will use this opportunity to renew its firm commitment to its member States to support their efforts and ensure that migration can benefit all.

38. Executive Committee members are invited to take note of the developments leading to the adoption of the Global Compact for Migration. They are also invited to take note of the importance of regional cooperation in the implementation of its objectives, and of key areas where the ESCWA secretariat can offer implementation support, follow-up and review at the regional level, including by providing knowledge and technical expertise, building effective partnerships, and strengthening existing dialogue and consensus-building platforms.

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Proposed programme plan for the year 2020

Summary

The present document contains the proposed programme plan for the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) for the year 2020. It does not provide information on resource requirements. Only the Secretary-General of the United Nations can issue such information in his proposed programme budget, which is reviewed by the relevant United Nations intergovernmental bodies before being approved by the General Assembly. This proposal may thus undergo amendments during that review process.

Members of the ESCWA Executive Committee are invited to review the programme orientation and the proposed list of deliverables for the seven subprogrammes contained in the annex to the present document, and make recommendations as necessary.

CONTENTS

	Paragraphs	*Page*
Introduction	1-4	3
Chapter		
I. OVERALL ORIENTATION	5-8	3
II. PROGRAMME PLAN FOR THE YEAR 2020 BY SUBPROGRAMME	9-100	4
A. Subprogramme 1: Integrated management of natural resources	9-23	4
B. Subprogramme 2: Social development	24-35	7
C. Subprogramme 3: Economic development and integration	36-56	9
D. Subprogramme 4: Technology for development and regional integration	57-64	12
E. Subprogramme 5: Statistics for evidence-based policymaking	65-74	13
F. Subprogramme 6: Advancement of women	75-90	15
G. Subprogramme 7: Conflict mitigation and development	91-100	17
Annex. Proposed list of deliverables for the year 2020		20

Introduction

1. The present document contains the proposed programme plan for the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) for the year 2020. It is accompanied by an annex listing the proposed deliverables for that year. The document is intended to provide an overview of all areas of work under the seven subprogrammes and an explanation of the logic that underpins the choice of deliverables.

2. The United Nations Secretariat has moved to a one-year planning and budgeting cycle as of 2020. This proposal thus follows a new format compared with the biennial plan that the ESCWA secretariat had hitherto presented to member States.

3. The implementation of ESCWA activities does not rely on the regular budget alone; other funding sources, namely the Regular Programme for Technical Cooperation (RPTC), the United Nations Development Account (DA) and voluntary contributions through extrabudgetary resources (XB) are essential to deliver all planned activities and services requested by member States.

4. The proposed programme plan for the year 2020 is subject to change based on future mandates and priorities that may emanate from scheduled global and regional conferences, such as the Intergovernmental Conference to Adopt the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (Marrakesh, Morocco, December 2018); the United Nations Climate Summit (New York City, September 2019); the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (New York City, September 2019); and decisions related to the ongoing realignment process of the United Nations development system.

I. OVERALL ORIENTATION

5. The overall objective of the proposed programme plan for the year 2020 is to support member States to adopt and implement policies and programmes to further progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which were adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in resolution 70/1. Special interventions to achieve this objective will be tailored to target least developed and conflict-affected countries. The ESCWA secretariat will implement the programme plan through even interdependent subprogrammes, which derive their mandates from intergovernmental committees.

6. Based on the guiding framework of the 2030 Agenda, the proposed programme plan for the year 2020 has been designed with a view to addressing the most pressing obstacles that hinder the achievement of the SDGs in the Arab region. Inspired by the 2030 Agenda, it places emphasis on the fundamental principles of "leaving no one behind" and reducing inequality between social groups and regions. The proposed programme plan is aimed at providing support to member States to build inclusive, resilient and peaceful societies that safeguard a better future for coming generations; ensure that strong and transparent institutions provide access to basic services and infrastructure for the people of the region; create employment opportunities through reforms and by drawing on the potential of technological advancements; mitigate the impact of climate change; strive towards social justice; engage young people; advance gender equality; and capitalize on the positive effects of migration. It intends to provide a coherent support structure, through seven subprogrammes, to address member States' priorities.

7. In 2020, the ESCWA secretariat will focus its efforts on leveraging its position as voice of, advocate for and advisor to the region, to achieve the following goals:

(a) Promote regional public goods that have the potential to generate significant shared benefits and positive spillovers to enable broad region-wide change;

(b) Enhance member States' capacity to formulate evidence-based policies by supporting the provision of the data and statistics required for the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda, as promulgated in the Arab Regional Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data;

(c) Support member States to improve policy effectiveness and service delivery through capacity- and institution-building efforts that focus on the principles of equality and "leaving no one behind";

(d) Monitor, assess and provide advice on means to mobilize all sources of finance to create the fiscal space for Governments to implement the 2030 Agenda;

(e) Tap regional and South-South partnerships to foster regional knowledge transfer through practitioners' exchange, and support national and regional training institutes to expand the reach and impact of ESCWA knowledge products;

(f) Promote policy coherence, consistency and coordination within the United Nations system in the Arab region through the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM), and among member States through subsidiary bodies, working towards the translation of global commitments into regional action.

8. As a house of expertise, the ESCWA secretariat will seek to translate findings from its normative work into practical initiatives aimed at enhancing institutional capacities in the region, in line with the expressed needs of member States. In doing so, the secretariat will continue to link its roles as a voice of and advocate for the region to its technical cooperation efforts. Technical cooperation will be anchored in integrated national frameworks to improve effectiveness, increase the impact of support provided by ESCWA in formulating evidence-based public policies and enhance transparency, while maintaining responsiveness to emerging needs of member States. Further, ESCWA will continue to develop strategic partnerships with regional and international organizations and institutions and to mobilize resources. It will strive to ensure greater impact and adequate optimization of financial and non-financial resources.

II. PROGRAMME PLAN FOR THE YEAR 2020 BY SUBPROGRAMME

A. SUBPROGRAMME 1: INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Objective: To support member States to achieve water, energy and food security and informed climate change action.

9. In 2020, the ESCWA secretariat will work with member States on six pillars of natural resources management for sustainable development. It will focus on improving energy performance through the promotion of energy efficient buildings and will provide support to identify and attract potential financing sources for energy transition programmes. Additionally, it will enhance the capacity of member States to develop integrated policies for increased water security, promote sustainable agriculture for increased food security and take informed action on climate change. The ESCWA secretariat will provide support to coordinate the management of natural resources at the regional level through intergovernmental mechanisms.

Energy efficiency in buildings
(SDG 7)

10. Energy consumption has more than doubled since 1990 in the Arab region, the only one in the world that has experienced no reduction in energy intensity over the past 25 years. In 2018, the ESCWA secretariat reviewed the status of the buildings sector's energy performance, which accounted for over two thirds of total annual electricity consumption in the region. It suggested the implementation of a sustained retrofit programme to improve the thermal quality of buildings and replace old low efficiency equipment and appliances so as to improve energy sustainability in the existing buildings stock.

11. The main challenges in the implementation of energy efficiency programmes in most Arab countries are low subsidized energy prices, a lack of readily available financing mechanisms, lax enforcement procedures and a shortage of skilled specialists. One effective way to meet these challenges is to devise programmes and policies for immediate, simple and proven energy efficiency actions that can be applied to very large segments of the buildings stock and at the household level.

12. In 2020, the ESCWA secretariat will advise member States and build their institutions' capacities to set up frameworks and programmes to disseminate proven energy efficiency measures in the buildings sector. The frameworks will be based on a comprehensive approach that incorporates technical, financial and logistical interventions. In 2019, in the first implementation phase of this activity, baseline mapping studies will be conducted in three member States.

Sustainable energy transition programmes
(SDG 7)

13. The transition to more sustainable energy systems in the Arab region requires changes in the energy mix and substantial financing sources that are beyond the present level of investments. The ESCWA secretariat supports member States in the formulation of policies that promote energy efficiency and investment in renewable energy. It reviews the status of energy efficiency and renewable energy project financing in member States and identifies successful policy reforms that contribute to the transformation of the related markets in the region. Based on the findings, it assists member States in improving the economic viability of projects, thus enhancing bankability and access to financing.

14. In 2020, the ESCWA secretariat will advise member States on available instruments for financing sustainable energy transitions, identify suitable ways to make greater use of international financing means available for clean energy projects, and build the capacity of member States to secure funding for sustainable energy transitions. The secretariat will facilitate partnerships and coordinated action among stakeholders, jointly with the Islamic Development Bank and the Sustainable Energy for All Middle East Hub. Additionally, the ESCWA secretariat will assist member States in tapping the potential of joint ventures and regional cooperation for investing in the local manufacturing of equipment and technologies in support of the sustainable energy transition.

Integrated policies for increased water security
(SDG 6)

15. The Arab region is one of the most water scarce regions in the world, with 18 out of 22 Arab countries falling below the renewable freshwater scarcity threshold and 13 falling below the absolute water scarcity threshold. The situation is aggravated by dependency on external transboundary water resources, climate change, infrastructure damage due to occupation and conflict, declining water quality, non-revenue water losses, inefficient water use and high population growth rates. To better address these challenges within the context of the 2030 Agenda, the ESCWA secretariat is supporting member States to align existing national and regional strategies with the SDGs, including the Arab Strategy for Water Security in the Arab Region to Meet the Challenges and Future Needs for Sustainable Development (2010-2030), whose revision will be considered for adoption in 2020.

16. The ESCWA secretariat will support this policy process by providing substantive and technical support to member States and intergovernmental mechanisms on ways to frame and inform water security policies and programmes in the region. This will include focus on integrated approaches to water resources management aimed at achieving water and sanitation for all under SDG 6, while ensuring sufficient access to freshwater resources for energy and food production in urban and rural areas. Climate change and the management of transboundary water resources will also be considered, so that basin and inter-basin aspects of managing shared surface and groundwater resources are factored into national planning. The ESCWA secretariat will work through inter-agency mechanisms at the global level (UN-Water) and regional level (Regional Coordination

Mechanism Working Group on Water) to enhance coherence and coordination in the support provided to Arab States for the formulation of water strategies, action plans and programmes.

Sustainable agriculture for increased food security
(SDG 2)

17. The Arab region is facing rapid land degradation and desertification. It struggles with water scarcity and losses in the quality of soils, which are affecting agricultural productivity and food security. Additional structural causes of food insecurity, such as import dependency and poverty, are exacerbated by conflicts and instability, which have become the single most important factor driving food insecurity in the region in recent years. Direct effects include the razing of farm land, the spreading of cluster bombs and mines, the killing of livestock, the destruction of machinery and the blocking of access to markets. Conflict also has had indirect effects by discouraging investment in agriculture and export sectors.

18. To address these challenges, the ESCWA secretariat supports member States to formulate and implement integrated and inclusive approaches for achieving food security. It promotes sustainable agriculture through the development of monitoring frameworks, assessments and technical assistance. In 2020, the secretariat will focus on operationalizing the regional framework for monitoring food security that will be under review by member States in 2019. Based on this integrated monitoring framework, it will report on food security in the regional context and disseminate information on the findings to different audiences. Additionally, two technical cooperation field projects aiming at improving the sustainability of the agricultural sector in the region will support farmers in improving their agricultural production through the adoption of good agricultural practices. Lessons learned from the projects will be shared and discussed through intergovernmental mechanisms and in expert meetings involving ministries responsible for agriculture and water resources.

Informed climate action by member States
(SDG 13)

19. Enhanced capacity for climate action requires informed analysis about climate change impacts and implications for sustainable development. At the thirtieth ministerial ESCWA session, held in Beirut in June 2018, member States welcomed the establishment of the Arab Centre for Climate Change Policies. The Centre facilitates access to data and information, delivers advisory services and training on measures and means to advance climate action, and provides a regional platform for regional exchange and consensus building.

20. In 2020, the ESCWA secretariat will organize regional workshops for climate change negotiators to discuss existing and emerging issues, and build the capacity of energy, water, agriculture and environment stakeholders to formulate climate change adaptation and mitigation plans and projects. These efforts will inform the preparation of nationally determined contributions and adaptation plans under the Paris Agreement, as well as reporting under SDG 13. The ESCWA secretariat will support intergovernmental and expert groups to foster regional exchange and consensus building on regional challenges that affect the ability to formulate and deliver on climate change commitments at the national and global levels. Access to regional datasets, geographic information system tools and technical materials for integrated climate action will be facilitated through a regional knowledge hub.

Regional coordination for sustainable environmental and natural resource management
(SDG 17)

21. Ministries of environment have been among the leading champions of the 2030 Agenda and have repeatedly requested the support of ESCWA in convening regional consultations and seminars to discuss national and regional monitoring and reporting on SDG progress. National research centres have pursued country-level initiatives for technology transfer and application.

22. In 2020, the ESCWA secretariat will provide technical and advisory support to intergovernmental mechanisms, with the aim of forging regional consensus on integrated and inclusive approaches to sustainable development. Such approaches will incorporate the management of water, energy and land resources in development planning so as to support the achievement of water, energy and food security in member States. The secretariat will prepare technical materials and deliver training on policies and programmes aimed at improving sustainable production and consumption in the Arab region. Focus will be placed on green technologies.

23. The ESCWA secretariat will convene expert consultations and build consensus among member States on regional challenges and priorities for advancing access to and understanding of green and appropriate technologies. During 2020, the SDG review year, it will advocate for leveraging technology to advance implementation. To do so, it will develop technical materials and provide advisory services, paying specific attention to climate-sensitive green technologies that can enhance water, energy and food security.

B. Subprogramme 2: Social development

Objective: To support member States to achieve inclusive, equitable and participatory social development in the Arab region and to implement, follow up and review the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

24. In 2020, the ESCWA secretariat will strengthen its support to member States to further the development of rights-based social policies and facilitate the social inclusion of youth, persons with disabilities and older persons. It will also provide advice on the improvement of existing social protection systems and sustainable urban planning. The secretariat will continue to provide support to member States for the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and raise awareness on the policy implications of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

Regional road map for rights-based, equality-oriented public policies for achieving social justice
(SDGs 10, 16 and 17)

25. Inclusion, equality and justice are combined in a nexus without which there can be no sustainable development. Building on normative and capacity-building interventions to promote social justice, combat inequality and encourage citizens' participation in public policymaking, the ESCWA secretariat will foster this nexus approach to development.

26. In 2020, the ESCWA secretariat will host the annual meeting of the Regional Development Partnership Mechanism (RDPM) to build consensus around a regional road map for the adoption of rights-based, equality-oriented public policies and the promotion of citizens' engagement. Aiming to devise homegrown policy options, the road map will also be translated into national action plans for the realization of equitable, inclusive and participatory social development.

Rights-based social policies and programmes focusing on social inclusion
(SDGs 10 and 11)

27. In the Arab region, vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, youth and older persons, encounter many barriers that hinder their inclusion and effective participation in the development process. Vulnerable groups are more likely to have lower access to education, health and employment. The demographic, socioeconomic, environmental and political changes and transitions that the region is witnessing are likely to exacerbate vulnerability, risk of poverty and exclusion. For example, disability prevalence in the Arab region is expected to increase due to ageing, war and conflict, natural disasters and forced displacement.

28. In 2020, the ESCWA secretariat will support member States in promoting social inclusion and equality, including for the most vulnerable, through producing knowledge, encouraging policy dialogue and peer

learning, and assisting in building policymakers' technical capacity to develop and implement inclusive, equitable and cohesive policies, strategies and programmes.

29. In order to enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization in the region, the ESCWA secretariat will work with member States and other partners through research, capacity development and consensus building on a variety of social policy issues, such as inclusive urban planning and social housing policies, slum upgrading and shelter development, and inclusive national policies that facilitate the development of inclusive urban space. The secretariat will also work on establishing the necessary global, regional and national partnership frameworks for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, with an emphasis on social inclusion.

Social protection systems to raise living standards and manage socioeconomic risks
(SDG 10)

30. A large segment of society in Arab countries works in the informal sector and suffers from limited access to social services, precarious housing conditions and exposure to different types of shocks. Most Governments in the Arab region are currently reforming their social protection systems by reducing or abolishing subsidies and expanding targeted social assistance. Governance of social protection is being improved through the establishment of unified and transparent social registries.

31. In 2020, the ESCWA secretariat will continue working with member States towards increasing social protection in the informal sector, through studies and targeted capacity-building workshops on social protection systems.

Alignment of national policies with the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
(SDG 10)

32. Since 2013, the ESCWA secretariat has spearheaded efforts, in coordination with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the League of Arab States, to inform policymaking across the Arab region on key migration issues. It has also organized training workshops on developing migration policies that uphold migrants' rights while maximizing their contribution to the development of their countries of origin and destination.

33. Rooted in the 2030 Agenda, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration aims to improve governance of migration and address the challenges and opportunities associated with it, including its contribution to sustainable development. Pursuant to paragraph 50 of the Compact, which mandates regional commissions to review its implementation beginning in 2020, the ESCWA secretariat will support member States' efforts to operationalize its objectives and review progress. It will work with relevant partners to encourage dialogue, share experiences and create incentives for policy reform and coherence in line with the Compact's principles and objectives.

Supporting the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda
(All SDGs)

34. ESCWA member States have reiterated the importance of regional collaboration, peer-learning and policy dialogue to realize sustainable development. They mandated the secretariat in December 2015 to lead the organization of the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development and the preparation of the Arab Sustainable Development Report, and to provide technical guidance and build capacity on SDG adaptation and implementation. They also welcomed the integrated approach to development planning proposed by the ESCWA secretariat as a tool to enhance cross-sectoral coordination and effectiveness.

35. In 2020, the ESCWA secretariat will work towards achieving a set of interconnected deliverables, aiming to strengthen regional cooperation to contribute to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable

Development as a unique venue to advance the 2030 Agenda regionally. Interventions will focus on knowledge building, comparative analysis of trends and patterns, progress reports, and the provision of regional multi-stakeholder platforms for learning, exchange and policy dialogue on sustainable development priorities.

C. Subprogramme 3: Economic development and integration

Objective: To support member States to achieve a basic standard of living for all people in the region through sustained and integrated economic development.

36. In 2020, the ESCWA secretariat will implement a multifaceted programme that will link macroeconomic and social policies, propose options for Governments to fill gaps in financing sustainable development and inform poverty eradication. It will provide advice on regulatory frameworks to bolster private sector development and raise the international competitiveness of the region with the aim to create employment opportunities.

Macroeconomic and social implications of fiscal reform policies
(SDGs 8 and 17)

37. Governments of Arab countries strive to reduce social gaps and accelerate growth while struggling with financial constraints. Addressing long-term challenges for sustainable development requires different policymaking approaches and, oftentimes, macroeconomic reform. Lack of capacity for economic monitoring limits the potential for such reform. Through its annual *Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the Arab Region*, ESCWA monitors regional economic and social performance that impacts several SDGs and supports member States to tackle development bottlenecks by proposing options for reform.

38. In 2020, the Survey will focus on energy subsidy reforms, given their implications for a Government's fiscal position and debt sustainability, for macroeconomic stability and competitiveness, and for people's livelihoods and the environment. In addition, the Survey will include two case studies: an ex post assessment (in Egypt) and an ex ante assessment (in Kuwait) of the impact of energy subsidy reforms in the region.

39. The ESCWA secretariat will also provide policy recommendations, conduct country-specific studies and build capacities of member States on quantitative modelling tools to address specific national challenges and facilitate the integration of the SDGs in national development plans and performance monitoring.

Social expenditure, macrofiscal objectives and the SDGs
(SDGs 1 and 8)

40. Rebalancing social expenditure and macropolicy objectives is a priority for member States. With public budgets increasingly under pressure, many struggle to connect fiscal policy with development objectives. The ESCWA secretariat supports national efforts to rethink macrofiscal policy for the achievement of macroeconomic stability by connecting fiscal policy to economic diversification, social development and the SDGs.

41. In 2020, ESCWA will produce and disseminate a set of modelling and policy tools for analysing fiscal policy choices and their connections to social expenditure and fiscal space. The methodological tools will examine the linkages between macrofiscal policy, social expenditure and the SDGs. A fiscal policy survey will analyse domestic resources and debt sustainability concerns, and a modelling tool will address fiscal-monetary interaction for inclusive growth.

42. Ongoing activities to support Jordan, Tunisia and Kuwait in preparing their social expenditure monitoring frameworks are expected to continue in 2020. Additionally, national and regional training workshops that focus on social expenditure monitoring and macrofiscal policy will inform efforts on better understanding the links between fiscal policy choices to achieve the SDGs and macrofiscal objectives.

Financing for development
(all SDGs)

43. Financing for development and developing sustainable finance remain the prime means to achieve the SDGs. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development presented a comprehensive set of policy actions with a package of over 250 concrete measures to finance sustainable development, transform the global economy and achieve the SDGs.

44. The ESCWA secretariat supports member States to capitalize on the framework set forth by the AAAA, in line with the work carried out by the Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development and the United Nations Secretary-General's Strategy for Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2018-2021). In 2020, based on its monitoring and assessment work, it will recommend options to mobilize sources of finance and create the fiscal space needed to achieve the SDGs.

45. The ESCWA secretariat will also focus on assessing net resource transfers, design appropriate financing policies and recommend actions to address socioeconomic development gaps. It will tackle the fields of domestic public resources; domestic and international private business and finance; international development cooperation; international trade as an engine for development; and debt sustainability. In addition, the secretariat will continue to provide technical support and training to member States on issues related to development financing; it will participate in the Inter-agency Task Force on Financing for Development to advance related processes and concepts, and promote the Arab common position on financing sustainable development.

Analysis and policy tools to reduce multidimensional poverty
(SDG 1)

46. In the Arab region, monetary and multidimensional poverty are among the key challenges for achieving the 2030 Agenda. Over the past two decades, economic growth did not bring about the expected reduction in poverty and inequality remained stagnant or increased. Several countries in the region faced political instability, conflict and intensifying economic and social challenges.

47. To address those challenges, the ESCWA secretariat will inform global and regional poverty eradication frameworks and advocate for enhancing their role as catalysts for national poverty reduction efforts. It will revise the Arab Multidimensional Poverty Index and produce a background paper to that end, to be reviewed at a regional meeting co-organized with the League of Arab States. The secretariat will also develop a methodology to analyse the drivers of change in multidimensional poverty over time. These activities will inform the 2021 Arab Multidimensional Poverty Report.

48. The ESCWA secretariat will also provide in-depth analysis on multidimensional poverty and policy recommendations through advisory services for national policy reform and the development of tools to incorporate multidimensional poverty targets in national planning and budgeting. This will include a joint training with the League of Arab States on multidimensional poverty and work on national multidimensional poverty analysis in selected countries.

Economic governance and competition
(SDG 8)

49. Private sector contribution to growth remains frail in the region. Weak economic governance, non-adequate competition policies and legislative frameworks, as well as the significant mass of informal sectors, have been identified as the main constraints for the development of a private sector that can reduce high levels of unemployment and contribute to fiscal resources and government budget through taxes.

50. Competition policy and regulation are essential components of economic systems. Competition policy is a crucial legislative framework to enable market access for entrepreneurs, drive innovation and ensure consumer protection. The Arab region needs effective anti-trust and competition laws and well-functioning market regulators to enhance the business environment, foster investments and innovation, improve economic performance, create employment opportunities and stimulate growth.

51. In 2020, the ESCWA secretariat will raise awareness on competition policy and development planning as enablers for inclusive and sustainable economic development. It will facilitate access to international, regional and national expertise and region-specific research on competition policy. It will support member States in formulating approaches to integrated, strategic and better coordinated development planning, and provide support in strengthening economic governance, including through legislative and regulatory reform. In cooperation with member States and partners such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the ESCWA secretariat will work on tools and methodologies and collect data in line with international standards, in order to provide evidence-based sustainable economic policy options.

Private sector development and employment creation
(SDG 8)

52. Arab policymakers face challenges in coping with the demographic transition witnessed in the Arab region and the lack of demand for skilled labour at decent wages. The bulk of employment created in the past two decades has been concentrated in the public and informal sectors. Labour force participation rates for women and youth are the lowest worldwide. The ESCWA secretariat attempts to contribute to the debate on those issues by investigating labour demand and identifying the reasons for the failure of economic policies in generating sustainable private sector employment in Arab countries.

53. In 2020, the ESCWA secretariat will initiate work with the International Labour Organization (ILO) on private sector development and employment creation to inform member States on the potential contributions and limitations of the private sector in advancing inclusive and sustainable employment. Country employment profiles will be drawn to contribute to the analysis. The secretariat will also work on an industrial policy survey to identify gaps and caveats in policies that hinder employment generation in that sector. A paper on green industrial policies and sustainability will complement that work.

Trade as an engine for employment generation and sustainable development
(SDG 17)

54. The ESCWA secretariat provides policy advice to member States on the integration of selected productive sectors in global and regional value chains; trade diversification options and competitiveness; logistics efficiency; and the role of macroeconomic and sectoral policy coordination in regional integration. It also provides support to member States in the negotiation and implementation of regional and multilateral agreements, aiming to boost the region's competitiveness and attractiveness for foreign direct investment (FDI), and the creation of employment opportunities.

55. In 2020, the ESCWA secretariat will conduct ex post and ex ante assessments of the major trade agreements implemented in the region and those under negotiation, with a focus on the Greater Arab Free Trade Area (GAFTA), the Agadir Agreement and the Euro-Mediterranean Free Trade Area, to identify the barriers towards better regional and global economic integration of Arab economies. It will also monitor economic integration in terms of exports of goods and services, remittances and FDI inflows through technical materials that will cumulate in the 2021 Assessment of Arab Economic Integration Report.

56. The ESCWA secretariat will leverage its cooperation with the League of Arab States, the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Arab Maghreb Union and specialized international organizations such as the International Trade Centre, UNCTAD and OECD to discuss and disseminate research findings. A joint project

with the Economic Commission for Africa on measuring regional integration performance, running until the end of 2020, will be a powerful instrument to develop national capacities in monitoring and evaluating the regional and global integration of Arab economies.

D. SUBPROGRAMME 4: TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION

Objective: To support member States to advance technology and innovation as drivers of development in the Arab region.

57. In 2020, the ESCWA secretariat will provide support to member States to harness technology and innovation for inclusive and sustainable development. Advice on building development and transfer ecosystems for technology and innovation will underpin its work towards that goal.

Digital technologies for sustainable development
(SDG 9)

58. At the thirtieth ESCWA ministerial session in June 2018, member States adopted the Beirut Consensus on Technology for Sustainable Development in the Arab Region, stating their "firm belief that technology and innovation are key enablers of the 2030 Agenda, and can provide creative solutions to achieve people-centred, sustainable and inclusive development". In response to requests addressed to it in the Consensus, the ESCWA secretariat will launch the first edition of the Arab Digital Development Report in 2019, in order to assess progress in digital technology policies and highlight gaps in Arab States' preparedness to absorb fast digital developments. The secretariat will also convene the second Arab High-level Forum on the World Summit on the Information Society, with the same thematic focus on empowerment and inclusiveness as the 2019 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (including financial inclusiveness).

59. In 2020, the ESCWA secretariat will support member States to promote the outcomes of the 2019 Arab Internet Governance Forum (Arab IGF) and will produce outputs related to the second Arab Internet Governance Road Map issued in January 2018, further exploring relationships between Internet governance and the 2030 Agenda. Regional workshops will be convened to outline the themes and agenda of the 2021 Arab IGF. The secretariat will continue to support member States in increasing their capacity to leverage digital technologies for sustainable development. Activities will include a regional expert group meeting and workshop to review progress in the preparation of national digital development reports. These activities will also contribute to the regional consultations for the 2021 High-level Political Forum.

Innovation policies and an enabling environment for technological development
(SDG 17)

60. Innovation is increasingly becoming a key player in enhancing the productivity and competitiveness of small and medium enterprises, boosting entrepreneurship and supporting local development. Since 2017, the ESCWA secretariat has proposed policy frameworks to integrate innovation in the development agendas of Arab countries, developed recommendations to improve the innovation ecosystem, including intellectual property systems, and advocated for open government that harnesses digital transformation.

61. In 2020, the ESCWA secretariat will hold expert group meetings and undertake technical cooperation activities to deliver innovative solutions for development challenges. It will also provide actionable recommendations and tools to further develop innovation capacity in member States and increase the number of entrepreneurs, especially among youth and women. It will also promote innovative products and services to improve the interaction between government and citizens.

Technology development and transfer ecosystems
(SDG 9)

62. Technology development and transfer ecosystems are paramount to advance the use of technology in the productive sectors of the economy and stimulate job creation, local research and innovative development activities. In the past years, the ESCWA secretariat had assisted member States in developing technology ecosystems and had hosted several high-level meetings and workshops to discuss policy formulation in that area.

63. In 2020, the ESCWA secretariat will work to further facilitate the engagement of stakeholders of the productive sectors of the economy with government officials. It will produce policy advice in the area of technology development on the regional and national levels to forge productive relations between knowledge producers and consumers, such as the private sector, small and medium enterprises and individuals, and support the establishment of a regional matchmaking platform to that end.

64. In 2020, the ESCWA secretariat will address the links between national plans towards sustainable and inclusive industrialization and national strategies for frontier technologies and artificial intelligence, tackling their role in achieving sustainable development. In close cooperation with the League of Arab States and relevant regional organizations, it will support member States to fully utilize technological development to achieve economic growth, and improve social welfare and the quality of life. It will also continue to provide policy options aimed at bolstering the technology ecosystem in Arab countries through a series of publications, meetings and workshops, including a bulletin on technology and the digital economy. In addition, the ESCWA secretariat will convene the intergovernmental Committee on Technology for Development and the meetings of the Arab e-Government Council.

E. SUBPROGRAMME 5: STATISTICS FOR EVIDENCE-BASED POLICYMAKING

Objective: To support member states in strengthening their capacity to produce evidence-based policies, based on relevant, reliable, timely and comparable national and regional data and statistics in support of the 2030 Agenda, and to ensure consistency with international statistical standards, methods and concepts.

65. In 2020, the ESCWA secretariat will strengthen the institutional framework for official statistics in the Arab region. It will build the capacities of national statistical offices to improve the production, dissemination and communication of national data. Focus will also be placed on restoring statistical operations in countries transitioning out of conflict.

Institutional framework for official statistics
(SDG 17)

66. The ESCWA secretariat facilitates intergovernmental and inter-agency processes aimed at developing the institutional framework for official statistics and adapting it to the policy requirements of the 2030 Agenda. To that end, it services the ESCWA Statistical Committee and the SDG Data Task Force of the RCM for Arab States, ensuring that their work is synchronized.

67. In 2020, the ESCWA secretariat will promote the adoption of regional statistical standards, including an Arabic/English glossary of statistical terms in 13 subject-matter areas. Through its technical advisory and technical cooperation activities, the secretariat will also support member States in developing strategies for official statistics to monitor the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It will endeavour to reconcile diverse statistical agendas, contributing to priority setting among international organizations working in the region and improving regional coordination in capacity development and provision of data. Additionally, the ESCWA secretariat will leverage partnerships to minimize the burden on national statistical systems and increase the impact of joint efforts.

Building capacity in official statistics
(SDG 17)

68. In 2020, the ESCWA secretariat will dedicate more than half of its resources in the statistics field to the capacity development of national statistical systems. It will take into account the varying levels of statistical development among member States and their specific needs in terms of policy, and help them to produce high-quality and timely statistics. The ESCWA secretariat will hold expert and advisory group meetings to discuss methodologies for economic, environmental, social and demographic data collection. It will also provide targeted technical assistance to address specific technical issues and will leverage extrabudgetary resources to develop capacity in identified priority areas, such as price statistics. It will notably assist countries experiencing instability to produce detailed, quality data at the needed frequencies.

Production, dissemination and communication of national data
(SDG 17)

69. The formulation of evidence-based policies requires greater temporal, spatial and contextual granularity of available data. National statistical offices of member States receive a large number of uncoordinated requests for data from regional and international organizations. Since 2018, the ESCWA secretariat has been assisting those offices by making data on many areas available in English and Arabic through a new online statistical information system. The system comprises a data warehouse module and a data management module. Its analytical, transformation and reporting tools allow gradual addition of modules for data dissemination through websites and mobile devices, and of purpose-built applications. This online statistical information system is a unique regional platform for Arab countries to share statistical data, increase consistency of disseminated statistical data and decrease their reporting burden.

70. In 2020, the ESCWA secretariat will expand its data and statistics dissemination and communication using new technologies. The online system will allow machine-to-machine data exchange with international and regional partners, using standards compatible with the Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX) Initiative. The secretariat will also convert printed statistical publications and make them available electronically, including live data systems.

New technologies and data sources in official statistics
(SDG 17)

71. If stored, tagged and analysed properly, new data sources known as big data offer a huge volume of information for policymakers and the public. The rise of open data initiatives offers opportunities for official statistical agencies to improve the relevance and efficiency of data production, and enables them to respond to more data requests.

72. In 2020 the ESCWA secretariat will promote the adoption of new technologies and data sources in official statistics and further explore the effective use of big data analytics. It will cooperate with national geospatial agencies and producers of official statistics to integrate geospatial and statistical analysis. It will strengthen links with global initiatives, such as the Group on Earth Observations (GEO), the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management and the United Nations Global Working Group on Big Data.

Restoring statistical operations in conflict-affected countries
(SDG 17)

73. Political instability, conflicts and crises have an adverse impact on the production of national statistics, destroying statistical infrastructure and draining statistical capacity. The ESCWA secretariat is leveraging South-South cooperation and encouraging knowledge transfer to address those problems. It is also providing capacity-building services to national statistical systems in conflict-stricken countries.

74. In 2020, the ESCWA secretariat will provide technical assistance to member States recovering from conflict to re-launch statistical surveys and introduce specific surveys to assess the impact of war and conflict on households, the environment and the economy. States that were unable to undertake a population census in the last round of censuses, such as Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, will be assisted in the re-establishment of a regular census cycle, the update of sampling frames and the production of statistical estimates of new realities, such as human loss, massive population displacement and destruction, all of which need to be reflected in official statistics to enable evidence-based policymaking.

F. Subprogramme 6: Advancement of women

Objective: To support member States to achieve gender justice for all women and girls in the Arab region.

75. In 2020, the ESCWA secretariat will facilitate the effective engagement of member States in the women, peace and security agenda, support member States to comprehensively respond to violence against women and promote women's economic participation to improve gender justice. The secretariat will also ensure that a gender perspective is mainstreamed in all services provided to member States.

Effective national engagement in the women, peace and security agenda (SDGs 5 and 16)

76. Intense conflict and displacement disproportionately affect women and girls in the Arab region. The risk of them becoming victims of gender-based violence increases and their access to justice is limited, a situation that is further exacerbated by pre-existing gender inequalities and vulnerabilities.

77. Women play a critical role in rebuilding social cohesion and re-establishing social norms in post-conflict settings. Including them in peace process negotiations increases the likelihood of reaching lasting peace agreements.

78. Guided by Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 and the women, peace and security agenda, and working with national women machineries, the ESCWA secretariat supports Arab States in the development of national action plans on the implementation of that agenda. The national action plans set the parameters for a State's protection, prevention, participation, relief and recovery framework, and empower women to participate in peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding processes. As of 2018, Iraq, Jordan, the State of Palestine and Tunisia have developed such national action plans, and other Arab States are currently debating draft plans.

79. In 2020, the ESCWA secretariat will further develop the capacity of member States to enhance their engagement in the women, peace and security agenda. It will endeavour to increase the number of adopted national action plans and to advance the inclusion of women in peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding processes. To that end, the secretariat will hold an expert group meeting on the theme of women mediators, which will discuss best practices in involving women in formal and non-formal peace processes. The meeting will result in a policy brief. The ESCWA secretariat will also organize awareness-raising events throughout 2020 to stir public discussion on women's role in peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding in the Arab region, and one related side event during the sixty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which will be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York City in March 2020.

Comprehensive State response to violence against women (SDG 5)

80. One in three women in the Arab region experience one form of violence or another. Governments have been increasingly addressing that problem through legal reform, including the passage of stand-alone laws and sexual harassment laws, and the repeal of so-called "marry your rapist" laws.

81. Aiming to encourage more comprehensive State response, the ESCWA secretariat is supporting Arab States to cost violence against women. Violence against women has a significant and long-term economic impact on the individual woman, her family, her community and the country she lives in. Estimating the cost of violence is a long-term, multi-year process that would allow States to assess its impact on the economy, the individual, the family, the community and the State. Egypt was the first Arab State to estimate the total cost of violence against women, which amounted to 6.15 billion Egyptian pounds (or 343 million United States dollars) in 2015.

82. The ESCWA secretariat is providing technical support to Iraq, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia to undertake costing exercises. In 2020, it will continue to support member States to estimate the economic cost of violence against women through tailor-made capacity-building measures. These will contribute to the formulation of relevant national responses and translate regional knowledge to the country level. A complementary policy brief that examines services available to women in the Arab region, such as protective, legal, medical or economic services, will be issued.

83. The ESCWA secretariat will expand that effort to include the economic impact of child marriage. Child marriage has been on the rise in the Arab region as a negative coping mechanism related to conflict and displacement. A background paper on costing child marriage in the Arab region, the first of its kind, will be produced.

84. Awareness-raising events will be held in Lebanon throughout 2020, including a gender discussion series on violence against women with experts. In December 2020, the ESCWA secretariat will organize the yearly youth arts competition as part of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence campaign, and will issue promotional materials related to the campaign.

Women's economic participation to improve gender justice
(SDGs 5 and 10)

85. In 2016, ESCWA member States adopted the Muscat Declaration: Towards the Achievement of Gender Justice in the Arab Region. They underlined that creating economic opportunities for women and enhancing their participation in the labour market was a key component of gender justice that had a multiplier effect on the well-being of women and their societies.

86. Women's average employment rate in the Arab region remains the lowest globally, standing at 17.1 per cent in 2018 according to data from the ILO. In order to identify barriers to women's economic opportunities and participation, explore means to formally recognize their unpaid care work and provide advice to member States on how to better address those barriers, the ESCWA secretariat will create a platform for knowledge exchange and transfer, and develop a policy brief on the subject. It will also launch a gender justice campaign during International Women's Day 2020 and issue an op-ed on gender justice.

87. The ESCWA secretariat will also provide capacity development for member States and members of the Sub-committee on Gender and the SDGs on SDG 5, in line with international frameworks that aim to create a conducive environment for the realization of gender justice. In that context and on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, ESCWA will hold a high-level meeting to assess regional progress in their implementation.

Gender mainstreaming for improved support to member States
(All SDGs)

88. On 27 July 2012, the United Nations Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 2012/24 on Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, which welcomed the development of the System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP). Since 2013, the ESCWA secretariat has advanced considerably in implementing the

UN-SWAP and has been considered best performer in that regard. The work involves institutionalizing the practice of gender mainstreaming at all levels within the secretariat and providing capacity-building and guidance to staff. Gender focal points in ESCWA divisions are an important feature of the implementation of the UN-SWAP.

89. In 2020, the ESCWA secretariat will continue to strengthen the abilities of gender focal points to formally and informally provide sector-specific advice and inputs to publications, ensuring the integration of a gender perspective. It will also provide a capacity development package to one of the substantive divisions. To acknowledge outstanding gender mainstreaming initiatives, the ESCWA secretariat will accord the biennial gender equality awards. Additionally, a capacity assessment survey on gender equality for all staff and an organizational culture survey will be conducted, to assess progress and to better integrate gender equality and the empowerment of women into the work of the ESCWA secretariat with member States.

90. Building on its experience with the national women's machinery of Jordan, the ESCWA secretariat will organize a side event on gender mainstreaming in Arab institutions at the sixty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women. It will also contribute substantively to the meetings and products of the United Nations Inter-agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, a network of gender focal points in United Nations offices, specialized agencies, funds and programmes chaired by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women).

G. Subprogramme 7: Conflict mitigation and development

Objective: To support member States in conflict or post-conflict settings to enhance institutional capacities in conflict mitigation and prevention, and foster institutional accountability and inclusiveness for sustainable development.

91. In 2020, the ESCWA secretariat will develop the capabilities of Palestinian institutions in formulating development strategies and policies that mitigate the impact of the Israeli occupation. It will also work with member States on enhancing the capacity of public institutions to promote sustainable peace, pre-empt conflict and accountably deliver public services to withstand the risks of conflict relapse or eruption.

Development strategies and policies that mitigate the impact of the Israeli occupation
(SDGs 8 and 16)

92. The ESCWA secretariat is mandated to monitor and report on the socioeconomic impact on the Palestinian people of the Israeli occupation and practices, including those that violate international law. The Israeli occupation and related policies and practices create conditions that hinder the efforts exerted by the State of Palestine to attain the SDGs.

93. Since 2016, the ESCWA secretariat has conducted extensive consultations with Palestinian officials, United Nations agencies and dozens of experts on the best development approach to mitigate the impact of the occupation. There was consensus on analysing the cumulative and multi-layered impact of decades-long Israeli policies, practices and measures as one complex matrix of control, and to develop a new scientific methodology enabling the assessment of this unique type of impact. This decision was endorsed by ESCWA member States, including in resolution 330 (XXX) adopted at the thirtieth ministerial session.

94. In 2019, the ESCWA secretariat will map relevant past and current Israeli policies, practices and measures, and their interlinkages and transmission mechanisms, and identify trends therein. This will constitute significant progress towards developing a methodology that includes rigorous multidisciplinary, qualitative and quantitative analysis to assess the long-term impact of occupation. In 2020, the secretariat will use the mapping results to analyse that impact and cost for selected sectors, while devising capacity-building tools to help Palestinian policymakers to integrate the findings into national planning processes. The ESCWA secretariat will hold workshops in 2020 and 2021 to provide Palestinian policymakers with training on those tools.

Conflict prevention and the promotion of sustainable peace
(SDGs 2, 10 and 16)

95. Conflicts in the Arab region have a detrimental impact on its development trajectory and the attainment of the SDGs. The long-term ramifications of crises and protracted conflict on populations and institutions compromise Governments' ability to address development challenges. Conflicts are no longer confined to national borders; they threaten the entire region and are exacerbated by global challenges to development including climate change, water scarcity, food security and population growth.

96. The ESCWA secretariat focuses its normative work on assessing the impact of conflicts, their spillover effects and the risks posed by global challenges in the Arab region. It examines the long-term impact of conflict on social and human capital by estimating how several conflict-affected Arab countries fare in SDG implementation. It also analyses the effects of conflict-induced shocks on people in the different stages of their lives.

97. In 2020, the ESCWA secretariat will expand its monitoring and analysis of the impact of conflict on member States to include the identification of cross-border risks. A publication will address the long-term development challenges for countries in conflict situations, including their ability to implement the 2030 Agenda, and the implications of such challenges for the entire region. The secretariat will utilize its newly developed regional risk assessment methodology to analyse conflict and non-conflict risks facing the Arab region, and provide its member States with a risk assessment framework that will be validated through an expert group meeting and a technical report. In addition, the ESCWA secretariat will help member States to address the spillover effects of conflicts by building the capacity of public sector officials to better manage the challenges faced by refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and their host communities. It will also continue to support a technical dialogue platform intended to facilitate the formulation of a consensus-based socioeconomic vision for the future of Libya.

Public institutions accountably deliver inclusive public services
(SDGs 8, 10 and 16)

98. Conflicts in the Arab region have further weakened already frail institutional capacity, increasing the risks of protracting conflicts and relapse. Strong, accountable and inclusive institutions, and culture, perceptions and practices that allow for dialogue and political consensus-building, are an effective bulwark against violent conflict both intra- and inter-States. The ESCWA secretariat promotes social cohesion and peaceful societies. It strives to foster inclusiveness and resilience to external and internal shocks. It does so through advocating for institutional reform, and providing capacity-building for officials from national and subnational institutions to improve public service delivery in a variety of contexts, including in conflict and post-conflict settings.

99. Research undertaken by the ESCWA secretariat has shown that the long-term impact of conflict on development is further exacerbated by the weakness of institutional capacities and governance structures. Through consultations with member States, specifically Iraq, Libya and Yemen, the secretariat has identified the critical set of institutions and reforms required in them to transition out of conflict, and has assisted the formulation of road maps for institutional development in post-conflict Libya and Yemen. The secretariat has also developed and launched an institutional gaps assessment methodology as a tool for strengthening the public sector to support recovery and prevent conflict relapse. Already applied in Iraq and Libya, the self-assessment methodology contains a series of tailor-made national capacity-building modules, based on distinct and context-sensitive institutional diagnostic toolkits that serve to identify key gaps in institutional effectiveness

100. In 2020, the scope of the institutional gap analysis methodology will be extended to cover the Sudan and other countries. To guarantee local ownership, the ESCWA secretariat will also train trainers in Iraq, Libya, the Sudan and Yemen to enable national actors to conduct the assessment within their respective

ministries or other institutions. Within the framework of SDG 16 and the conflict prevention vision of the United Nations Secretary-General, the secretariat will scale up and expand its analysis on governance issues and institutions by monitoring governance progress in the Arab region for conflict prevention. Expert group meetings will debate and provide concrete policy recommendations on prevention of violent extremism, the role of institutions in the promotion of the culture of dialogue and principles of good governance, and socioeconomic reform policies for more inclusive sustainable development. The ESCWA secretariat will integrate those results into its analysis, activities and publications.

Annex

Proposed list of deliverables for the year 2020

A. FACILITATION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PROCESS AND EXPERT BODIES

Parliamentary documentation

1. Substantive parliamentary documents to the thirty-first ESCWA ministerial session.

2. Substantive parliamentary documents for the twenty-first session of the Committee on Transport and Logistics (6).

3. Substantive parliamentary documents for the fourteenth session of the Statistical Committee (6).

4. Note of the Secretary-General on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan.

Substantive services for meetings

1. Substantive servicing of the twenty-first session of the Committee on Transport and Logistics.

2. Substantive servicing of the fourteenth session of the Statistical Committee.

3. Substantive servicing of the intergovernmental meeting of the Bureau of the Statistical Committee.

4. Substantive servicing of the Inter-sessional Expert Group on Disability.

5. Technical Advisory Group on Economic Statistics.

6. Technical Advisory Group on Demographic and Social Statistics.

7. Arab Forum on Sustainable Development 2020.

8. Arab Regional Parliamentary Forum on the 2030 Agenda.

9. Multi-stakeholder high-level meeting on implementation and follow-up of the Global Compact on Migration in the Arab region.

10. High-level meeting for the endorsement of the regional road map for integrating rights-based equality-oriented public policies and promoting citizen engagement.

11. High-level meeting of the Arab e-Government Council.

12. High-level meeting on the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action 25 years after their adoption.

13. Annual Conference of the League of Arab States/Arab Administrative Development Organization/ ESCWA.

14. Expert group meeting on integrated water resources management.

15. Expert group meeting on integrated natural resources management for enhanced food security.

16. Expert group meeting on fossil fuels.

17. Expert group meeting on the environment-related Sustainable Development Goals.

18. Expert group meeting on the regional road map for integrating rights-based equality-oriented policies and promoting citizen engagement.

19. Expert group meeting on disability.

20. Expert group meeting on designing older persons-sensitive policies and strategies.

21 Regional consultative meeting on the Arab Cities Report (in cooperation with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)).

22. Expert group meeting on supporting Arab countries in transition.

23. Expert group meeting on key processes/institutions that support economic activity and economic transactions.

24. Expert group meeting on assessing Arab economic integration.

25. Expert group meeting on macrofiscal policy and employment.

26. Expert group meeting on Internet governance: infrastructure and emerging Internet ecosystems.

27. Expert group meeting on technology transfer and adaptation for sustainable consumption and production.

28. Expert group meeting on theme of the 2021 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development and implications on the national digital development reports.

29. Expert group meeting on the role of technology and innovation for reconstruction and recovery in the Arab region.

30. Expert group meeting on cross-cutting issues related to statistics.

31. Expert group meeting on women mediators: exchanging knowledge and best practices.

32. Expert group meeting on provision of comprehensive services to women and girls in Arab countries.

33. Expert group meeting on barriers to women's economic participation and ways to recognize their care work.

34. Expert group meeting on Arab regional risk assessment framework: findings and public policy implications.

35. Expert group meeting on analysing the cumulative impact of selected Israeli policies and practices.

36. Expert group meeting on governance, conflict prevention and recovery.

Conference and secretariat services for meetings

1. Secretariat services to the Joint Committee on Environment and Development in the Arab Region (JCEDAR).

2. Secretariat and substantive support to the meetings of the Regional Committee of the United Nations Global Geospatial Information Management for the Arab States (UNGGIM – Arab States).

B. GENERATION AND TRANSFER OF KNOWLEDGE

Seminar, workshops, fellowship and training events

1. Seminar on making greater use of international financial means available for clean energy projects on renewable energy, energy efficiency and energy access.

2. Seminar on raising awareness on issues related to the management of natural resources for climate change action.

3. Workshop for the gender focal points network.

4. Training on gender mainstreaming.

Publications

1. Food security in the Arab region.

2. Publication on disability.

3. *Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the Arab Region 2019-2020.*

4. Technology and Development Bulletin.

5. Arab society – social statistics and indicators.

6. Statistical report on the Sustainable Development Goals.

7. Challenges for development in current conflict settings: thematic priorities.

8. Palestine under occupation, No. 3: cumulative impact of selected Israeli policies and practices.

Technical material

1. Technical material on financing sustainable energy transitions in the Arab region: available instruments and best ways to activate them.

2. Technical material on shared water resource management.

3. Technical report on food security with a focus on the 2030 Agenda.

4. Technical report on climate change: means of implementation.

5. Technical material on issues related to the integrated management of natural resources.

6. Technical paper on trends in Global Compact for Migration implementation: good practices and lessons learned.

7. Technical paper on a regional road map for integrating rights-based equality-oriented policies and promoting citizen engagement.

8. Technical paper on inequality in post-conflict settings.

9. Technical paper on older persons-sensitive policies and strategies: review of regional and international practices.

10. Technical paper on entry points to youth empowerment in the Arab region.

11. Technical paper on social protection in support of social inclusion.

12. Technical paper on regional trends in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda: five years after adoption.

13. Technical paper on national and regional reporting on progress towards the SDGs.

14. Technical paper on the assessment of the energy subsidy reform in Kuwait.

15. Technical paper on improving good economic governance - focus on the enforcement element of competition policy (SDG 16).

16. Technical material on competition policy and regulation for ESCWA member States.

17. Technical paper on global changes in trade policy and their implications for Arab countries.

18. Technical paper on the role of macroeconomic policies in export promotion in the Arab region.

19. Technical paper on an ex post assessment of the Greater Arab Free Trade Area.

20. Technical paper on a quantitative framework linking trade policies and performance to selected SDGs.

21. Technical paper on assessing the role of logistics performance in export competitiveness.

22. Technical paper on determinants of trade facilitation performance in the Arab region.

23. Technical paper on a methodology to analyse drivers of change in multidimensional poverty over time.

24. Technical paper on the development of tools to incorporate multi-poverty targets in national planning/budgeting.

25. Technical paper on employment creation.

26. Technical paper on green industrial policies and sustainability in the Arab region.

27. Technical paper on macrofiscal policy, social expenditure and the SDGs.

28. Fiscal-monetary interaction model for inclusive growth: application to oil-poor countries.

29. Technical paper on progress achieved in implementing the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.

30. Technical input to the 2020 report of the Inter-agency Taskforce on Financing for Development: regional contexts.

31. Technical paper on the Arab Financing for Development Compendium/Scorecard.

32. Technical paper on the measurement of e-Government services in the Arab countries.

33. Technical paper on innovative solutions to enhance future smart government systems in the Arab region.

34. Technical paper on trends of technology and innovation and their applications in the Arab region.

35. Technical paper on science, technology and innovation for advancing the SDGs in the Arab region.

36. Technical paper on costing child marriage.

37. Technical paper on methodological issues for articulating a risk assessment framework for the Arab region.

38. Technical paper on regional conflict-related challenges for the 2030 Agenda.

39. Technical paper on measuring and mapping risk dimensions in the Arab region.

40. Technical paper on the Palestinian development planning cycle.

41. Technical paper on the quality of institutions and structural transformation.

42. Technical paper on improving service delivery and strengthening the social fabric.

43. Technical paper on the institutional dimension of conflict prevention.

44. Employment profiles for three Arab countries.

45. Bulletin on social development.

46. E-bulletin on trade statistics.

47. E-bulletin on industry statistics.

48. E-bulletin on gender in figures.

49. E-bulletin on National Accounts in the Arab region.

50. Policy brief on Women, peace and security.

51. Policy brief on violence against women.

52. Policy brief on women's unpaid work.

53. Policy paper on digital technologies.

54. Policy brief on inequality and sustainable development.

55. Industrial policy survey.

56. Fiscal survey 2020: domestic resources and debt sustainability concerns.

57. Capacity assessment survey on gender equality.

58. Organizational culture survey.

C. SUBSTANTIVE DELIVERABLES

Consultation, advice and advocacy

1. Regional inputs to the annual publication of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, *World Economic Situation and Prospects*, 2021.

2. Substantive contribution to and support for the eleventh International Forum on Energy for Sustainable Development.

3. Substantive contribution to the Vienna Energy Forum.

4. Substantive contribution to and support for the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) General Assembly and Sustainability Week.

5. SDG 7 Advisory Group coordination meeting (activity that contributes to the SDG 7 Tracking Report: Arab Region).

6. Meeting of the Expert Group of the League of Arab States on energy efficiency and renewable energy (activity under the meetings of the Arab Ministerial Council for Electricity and Technical Committees on Electricity and Renewable Energy/Energy Efficiency, and the League of Arab States Executive Bureau of the Council of Electricity Ministers meeting).

7. Substantive contribution to and support for the fifth Arab Forum on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency.

8. Substantive contribution to and support for the meetings of the Arab Ministerial Council for Electricity and Technical Committees on Electricity and Renewable Energy/Energy Efficiency, and the League of Arab States Executive Bureau of the Council of Electricity Ministers meeting.

9. Substantive contribution to and support for the Regional Center for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RCREEE) Board of Trustees meeting.

10. Contribution and support to UN-Energy meetings.

11. Substantive contribution and support to the Arab Ministerial Water Council (AMWC) (twelfth session) and its Technical, Scientific and Advisory Committee.

12. Substantive contribution to the World Water Week.

13. Substantive contribution to and support for the Arab Water Forum.

14. Contribution and support to UN-Water.

15. Substantive contribution and support to the RCM Working Group on Water.

16. Substantive contribution to and support for the FAO Regional Conference for the Near East.

17. Substantive contribution to and support for the Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD) General Assembly (thirty-sixth session).

18. Substantive contribution to and support for the Committee on World Food Security (FAO).

19. Substantive contribution to and support for the meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

20. Substantive contribution to and support for the meeting of the Arab Council of Ministers Responsible for Meteorology and Climate.

21. Support for the meeting of the of the Arab Permanent Committee for Meteorology (APCM) (Cairo).

22. Substantive contribution to and support for the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP26).

23. Support to regional forums on climate change.

24. Substantive contribution to and support for the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible for the Environment (CAMRE).

25. Substantive contribution to and support for the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5).

26. Substantive contribution to and support for the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2020.

27. Co-chairing and providing secretariat services to the Task Force on SDG Data of the RMC for the Arab States.

28. Servicing the United Nations Inter-agency Network on Women and Gender Equality.

29. Servicing the Inter-agency Support Group on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

30. Contribution to the Commission on Social Development 2020.

31. Substantive servicing of inter-agency meetings: follow up on the New Urban Agenda.

32. Coordination meetings in support of the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development.

33. Input to global and regional events on the 2030 Agenda implementation, follow-up and review.

34. Annual meeting of the Regional Development Partnership Mechanism (RPDM).

35. Substantive contribution to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)-World Trade Organization (WTO) aid for trade survey.

36. Substantive contribution to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)-regional commissions initiative on foreign direct investments and trade regulations.

37. Substantive contribution to the OECD-WTO initiative on trade in value added and global value chains.

38. Substantive contribution to the Global Trade Analysis Project conference.

39. Gender discussion series: women, peace and security.

40. Gender discussion series: violence against women.

41. Gender mainstreaming in ESCWA.

42. Substantive contribution to the Arab Cities Report

Databases and substantive digital materials

1. ESCWA Online Statistical Information System (EOSIS).

2. Regional Knowledge Hub on Climate Change.

D. COMMUNICATION DELIVERABLES

Outreach programmes, special events and information materials (including booklets and pamphlets)

1. Fact sheets on the existing joint ventures for local manufacturing of energy-efficient and cleaner energy equipment in the Arab region: successes and challenges.

2. Food security fact sheet.

3. Booklet on the water-related Sustainable Development Goals.

4. Booklet on the management of natural resources for climate change action.

5. Booklet on the impact of conflict in the Arab region.

6. Booklet on the social and economic impact of the Israeli occupation.

7. Launch of the *Survey of Economic and Social Developments in the Arab Region 2019-2020*.

8. Launch of the industrial policy survey.

9. Thematic launch for work on gender justice.

10. Promotional material on digital technologies for development.

11. Promotional material on big data for policy analysis.

12. Semi-annual newsletter on price statistics.

13. Semi-annual newsletter on gender statistics.

14. Annual statistics newsletter.

15. A campaign on the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence.

16. A campaign on International Women's Day.

17. Observance of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

18. Side event on women, peace and security during the 2020 Commission on the Status of Women.

19. Side event on violence against women in the 2020 Commission on the Status of Women.

20 Side event on gender justice during the 2020 Commission on the Status of Women.

21 Side event on gender mainstreaming in institutions during the 2020 Commission on the Status of Women.

22 Side event at the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council.

23 Pamphlet on the repercussions of Israeli occupation on development outcomes.

24 Wallchart on the impact of conflict and occupation on socioeconomic development in Palestine.

Digital platforms and multimedia content

1. Portal on open government and open data in the Arab region.

UNITED NATIONS

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Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

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Item 13 of the provisional agenda

Technical cooperation activities for 2018

Summary

The present document provides an overview of technical cooperation activities implemented by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) since the fourth meeting of the Executive Committee, which are funded from the Regular Programme for Technical Cooperation (RPTC), the United Nations Development Account and extrabudgetary sources.

The present document contains information on RPTC, through which ESCWA provides support to member States in building technical capacity and offers advisory services. The document also sets out key achievements by the secretariat in supporting the least developed countries, establishing technical cooperation frameworks at the national level, and launching activities that highlight the interlinkages between the three following functions of ESCWA: a research institution producing studies aimed at supporting policy reform, a house of expertise providing technical guidance to decision makers, and a regional forum for building consensus between member States on ways to overcome the challenges they face.

The Executive Committee is invited to take note of implemented technical cooperation activities, and make proposals on their advancement in the coming period.

CONTENTS

	Paragraphs	*Page*
Introduction	1-5	3
Chapter		
I. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2018	6-9	3
II. EXAMPLES OF INTEGRATED TECHNICAL SUPPORT PROVIDED BY ESCWA TO MEMBER STATES	10-20	4
III. ADVISORY SERVICES FINANCED FROM THE RPTC BUDGET	21	7
IV. CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES FINANCED FROM THE RPTC BUDGET	22	8
V. STUDY TOURS FINANCED FROM THE RPTC BUDGET	23	9
VI. ACTIVITIES FUNDER FROM THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT	24	10
VII. EXTRABUDGETARY ACTIVITIES	25	10
VIII. CONCLUSION	26-28	11

Introduction

1. The Regular Programme for Technical Cooperation (RPTC) is a key tool for implementing the programme of work of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). Technical cooperation projects are designed in line with member States' requests so as to meet their needs. In addition to RPTC flexibility in meeting emerging and urgent needs in the region, it has succeeded in shifting towards strategies that focus on establishing national frameworks for coordinating cooperation to achieve the desired results. When developing those frameworks, ESCWA ensures integrated planning for technical cooperation provided to member States to improve interaction, increase impact, and enhance transparency and accountability. As part of such efforts, RPTC resources were reorganized to ensure consistency with the ESCWA strategic framework, which focused in 2018 on the following three main pillars: inclusive development, regional integration, and good governance and resilience.

2. Technical cooperation at ESCWA is part of broader international efforts aimed at achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The work of ESCWA, under its seven specialized subprogrammes that address the various dimensions of development in the Arab region, intersects with most of the 17 SDGs.

3. Technical cooperation services provided by ESCWA are divided into the following three categories: advisory services to support member States in public policy issues; capacity-building workshops, study tours and fellowships; and pilot field projects in the areas of specialization of ESCWA that will be developed into larger projects with funding from extrabudgetary sources. ESCWA aims to adopt a results-orientated multidisciplinary approach for technical cooperation activities.

4. To identify priority areas for technical cooperation in member States, ESCWA holds national multisectoral workshops with representatives of various ministries and relevant government bodies. During discussions, participants are requested to determine needs, desired outcomes and long-term visions for change emanating from proposed initiatives.

5. Technical cooperation activities are financed from RPTC, the United Nations Development Account and extrabudgetary sources. ESCWA aims to achieve integration between those three sources and its normative research work that is funded by the regular budget.

I. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2018

6. ESCWA has completed 79 advisory missions and capacity-building activities under the RPTC budget, has led 10 technical cooperation projects financed by the United Nations Development Account,[1] and has implemented 8 projects funded from extrabudgetary sources.

7. ESCWA has completed preparations for signing national technical cooperation frameworks with Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, and has continued implementing signed frameworks with Egypt, Mauritania, Morocco and the Sudan. It organized a national workshop on technical cooperation to establish cooperation frameworks with Jordan, and is preparing similar workshops for Kuwait, the State of Palestine and Yemen.

8. Under projects aimed at building the capacity of developing countries in priority areas in accordance with the United Nations development agenda, ESCWA has implemented 19 training sessions at the regional, subregional and national levels funded by the Development Account. ESCWA led 10 projects and was an implementing partner in 3; the Sudan participated in 6 of the projects, Mauritania in 4, and Yemen in 4. ESCWA also prepared 4 training manuals for policymakers, and organized 5 advisory missions and 6 expert group meetings.

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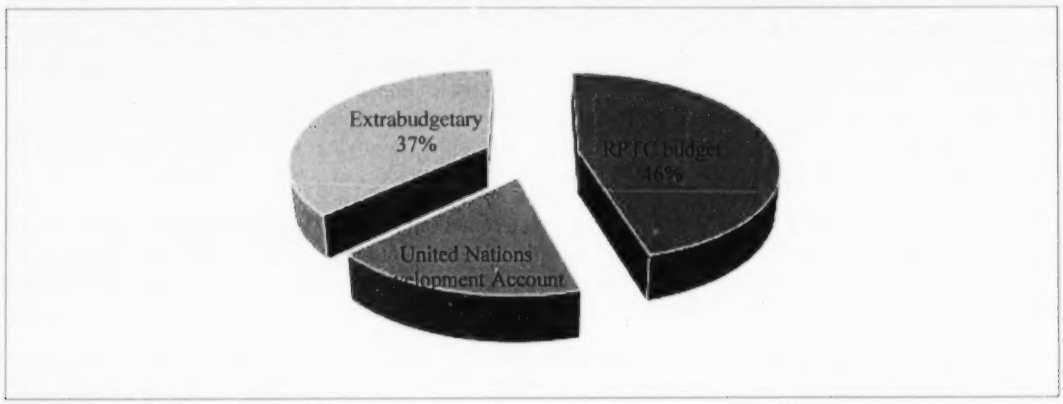
[1] The United Nations Secretariat established the Development Account in 1997 to finance projects aimed at building the capacity of developing countries in priority areas, in accordance with the United Nations development agenda.

9. Iraq, the Sudan and Tunisia benefited the most from technical cooperation activities provided by ESCWA under the RPTC budget. Figure 1 shows the distribution of technical cooperation activities implemented by ESCWA according to funding sources.

Figure 1. Technical cooperation activities by funding source, 2018



II. EXAMPLES OF INTEGRATED TECHNICAL SUPPORT PROVIDED BY ESCWA TO MEMBER STATES

10. ESCWA aims to achieve coherence between its functions, especially between the studies and reports it prepares and the activities it implements. An example of this approach was work that began with a 2017 study entitled "Rethinking fiscal policy in the Arab region",[2] which highlights the challenges faced by decision makers in identifying mechanisms to link fiscal policies with the SDGs to develop a social expenditure observatory. The observatory aims to evaluate all public spending on the social sector, which is measured differently in each country. Work has begun on establishing the observatory in Jordan and Tunisia, and discussions are underway on its establishment in Kuwait. ESCWA is currently preparing a project to finance the next phases of this initiative, to guide policies based on detailed records of social expenditures towards achieving social development without undermining macroeconomic priorities.

11. In the context of regional cooperation, ESCWA has conducted several activities in collaboration with the League of Arab States, including organizing a training workshop on sand and dust storms in the Arab region (Cairo, 10-12 February 2018). Several organizations participated in the workshop, including the World Meteorological Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Egyptian Meteorological Authority, the European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites, and the Barcelona Supercomputing Centre. The workshop improved the technical capacity of workers and researchers in the meteorological field in Arab countries, especially with regard to analysis, forecasting, using ground-based measurements and satellites, storm modelling and classification, and preparing and collecting data on models. The workshop also highlighted the social and economic impact of sand and dust storms and their repercussions for ecosystems.

12. ESCWA, in collaboration with the League of Arab States and the United Nations Population Fund, organized the Arab Regional Conference on Population and Development: Five Years after the 2013 Cairo Declaration. The Conference complemented ESCWA activities under a project on national capacity-building for the development of integrated, sustainable and inclusive population policies in the Arab region. The project led to the establishment of partnerships with government institutions in five Arab countries, notably with the Higher Population Council of Jordan, the Ministry of Social Affairs of Lebanon, the Ministry of Family,

[2] E/ESCWA/EDID/2017/4

Solidarity, Equality and Social Development of Morocco, the National Population Council of the Sudan, and the National Board for Family and Population of Tunisia. Over three and a half years, the project succeeded in developing policies by building national capacity, and preparing innovative studies that facilitated national dialogues on formulating evidence-based policies. In the Sudan, for example, ESCWA supported efforts by the National Population Council to prepare a draft migration strategy, and contributed to the launch of a national dialogue to build consensus on issues and priorities that should be contained in the strategy. In Lebanon, a field study on the economic and social status of older persons formed the knowledge base for a strategy on older persons by the Ministry of Social Affairs.

13. As part of ESCWA efforts to strengthen the exchange of expertise and knowledge networks between Arab countries, and in collaboration with officials at the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of Jordan, ESCWA conducted an institutional assessment of the needs of the Persons with Disabilities and Special Needs Authority of Iraq to benefit from the experience of Jordan in advancing the role of specialized institutions, formulating inclusive public policies in all fields, and enacting legislation in the light of definitions set out in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and in line with the principle of protecting the right to legal capacity.

14. Discussions at those government meetings contributed to advancing field knowledge and ESCWA services to support public policies regarding the rights of persons with disabilities. A meeting held with the World Health Organization led to the development of approaches to define disability in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and international classifications. ESCWA provided technical support to Iraq and Libya in that regard, and collaborated with the League of Arab States in developing an Arab disability index to improve data collection in that field. ESCWA is currently preparing a development project, in collaboration with the International Labour Organization, aimed at integrating persons with disabilities in labour markets in the Arab region.

15. With regard to women's rights, ESCWA published the Status of Arab Women Report 2017 entitled "Violence against Women: What Is at Stake?". It also developed a practical model to estimate the cost of marital violence on national economies. ESCWA continued this normative work in 2018 through extrabudgetary activities that involved holding regional consultations on estimating the cost of violence against women. Following those consultations, ESCWA received many requests for technical support, in which Arab countries expressed their interest in implementing the proposed economic model. ESCWA provided support to Iraq, Lebanon, the State of Palestine, Saudi Arabia and Tunisia to develop and implement national operational plans specifically designed to measure the cost of violence against women. ESCWA also assisted member States in developing surveys to measure the prevalence of violence against women as an integral part of the cost estimation approach. To ensure the transfer of knowledge to all member States and guide them, ESCWA prepared a manual that explains in detail the requirements for each stage of the cost estimation process.

16. Concerning renewable energy, ESCWA contributed to the development of the Global Tracking Framework 2017 – Progress Toward Sustainable Energy, and concurrently published a study entitled "Arab Region Progress in Sustainable Energy: Global Tracking Framework Regional Report". ESCWA complemented that normative work on monitoring SDG 7 with a series of projects to increase energy efficiency in the housing and services sectors in the Arab region. It also implemented the following two projects on promoting renewable energy: promoting renewable energy investments for climate change mitigation and sustainable development; and developing the capacity of ESCWA member States to address the water and energy nexus for achieving the SDGs. Work included training tools on preparing projects and the efficient use of resources and renewable energy. ESCWA also implemented extrabudgetary projects, including preparing a regional follow-up report on SDG 7 that was drafted by ESCWA in collaboration with the Islamic Development Bank, and launching a project that takes gender issues into consideration, supported by the Swedish International Development Agency and entitled "Regional initiative for promoting small-scale renewable energy applications in rural areas of the Arab region". Such technical support complements the analysis provided by ESCWA in a study entitled "Evaluating Renewable Energy Manufacturing Potential in the Arab Region: Jordan, Lebanon, United Arab Emirates".

17. To support member States efforts in implementing the 2030 Agenda, ESCWA organized the Arab Forum on Sustainable Development in 2018, in collaboration with the League of Arab States. To achieve the SDGs at the national level, ESCWA adapted its support according to country needs. In this context, it translated the "Handbook for preparation of voluntary national reviews" and developed a voluntary national review road map for Oman for 2019. It also organized a regional workshop on sound institutional environments and cooperation, dialogue and partnerships to produce and use sustainable development indicators, which was attended by 52 participants: 38 representatives of 15 Arab States, such as heads of national statistical offices and decision makers, and 14 representatives of United Nations organizations and agencies and other bodies (Tunis, 6-8 February 2018). Moreover, ESCWA organized a regional workshop on measuring SDG indicators on violence against women and time-use indicators, which was attended by 15 representatives of national statistical offices and national apparatuses concerned with women's advancement in 7 Arab countries, namely Egypt, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, the State of Palestine, the Sudan and the United Arab Emirates, and representatives of the World Health Organization and the United Nations Population Fund (Tangiers, Morocco, 7-9 May 2018).

18. In the context of the Beirut Consensus on Technology for Sustainable Development in the Arab Region, ESCWA published a study entitled "Perspectives of Digital Economy in the Arab Region"[3] in June 2018. The study addresses the global components of digital economy, provides an assessment of digital economy in Arab countries, and presents a set of policy recommendations to enhance digital economy performance to generate more employment opportunities and drive economic growth. Based on the study's findings, ESCWA organized a series of capacity-building workshops, including on digital governance strategies in Morocco, on policies for critical infrastructure protection (cybersecurity), and on governance of science parks and technological incubators in the Sudan. ESCWA also contributed to several digital transformation strategies in Jordan, and is communicating with the Ministry of Information and Communications Technology to continue their launch.

19. Concerning efforts to advance management systems, ESCWA published a series of reports on Arab governance that tackled the restructuring and reform of key institutions in view of conflicts and political transitions in the Arab region. Based on the findings of those reports, ESCWA launched technical support initiatives that included preparing a common Arab framework for the competencies of public sector employees, in collaboration with Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, the State of Palestine and Tunisia. The framework aims to link competencies to employment and training policies and to evaluate performance and organizational plans in public sector institutions. Moreover, ESCWA organized three workshops on mechanisms for disseminating and applying the general principles of good governance in 15 government departments in Tunisia. It also developed a practical analysis of institutional gaps in the Yemeni Government under a development project on strengthening institutional development and participation to achieve the SDGs. In that context, ESCWA held two workshops at which it presented a guide on institutional evaluation, its methodology and mechanisms. On the basis of the analysis, a practical evaluation and analysis was conducted on the capacity of Yemeni institutions to prepare operational plans and strategies, and a study was carried out on the status and management of public budgets and on coordinating work with other government bodies, international donors and relevant non-governmental bodies.

20. Concerning the multiple dimensions of governance, ESCWA implemented an extrabudgetary project on launching a community dialogue to formulate a common vision of economic and social development in Libya. In that context, ESCWA published training material on managing the community dialogue and its mechanisms. ESCWA is also preparing three studies on the current status of Libyan institutions, and held a series of expert group meetings to discuss their findings. Regarding economic governance, ESCWA, in coordination with the Ministry of Investment and International Cooperation of Egypt, conducted a training of trainers on legislative reforms to attract investment. Furthermore, ESCWA organized a workshop on economic diversification and competitiveness in Bahrain, and is collaborating in that regard with the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) to develop options for political reform based on evidence and international standards. Concerning electronic governance, ESCWA provided technical support under a development project of the Academy of

[3] E/ESCWA/IDD/2017/2.

ICT Essentials for Government Leaders in the Arab Region, and organized capacity-building workshops in that area in Morocco and the Sudan.

III. ADVISORY SERVICES FINANCED FROM THE RPTC BUDGET

21. ESCWA provided 38 advisory services for member States, mostly under subprogrammes 3 and 5 on economic development and integration, and statistics for evidence-based policymaking (table 1).

TABLE 1. ADVISORY SERVICES TO MEMBER STATES, 2018

	Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development	Social development	Economic development and integration	Technology for development and regional integration	Statistics for evidence-based policy development	Advancement of women	Conflict mitigation and development	Technical cooperation	Total
Egypt		1	1						2
Iraq			2			1	3		6
Jordan			2					1	3
Lebanon			2						2
Mauritania			1						1
Morocco					2				2
Oman			1						1
State of Palestine					3				3
Qatar						1			1
Saudi Arabia					1	4			5
Sudan					1				1
Syrian Arab Republic	1				1			1	3
Tunisia			1			1	1		3
United Arab Emirates					1				1
Yemen					1	0			1
Total	1	1	10	0	10	7	4	2	35

Figure 2. Advisory services financed from the RPTC budget by subprogramme, 2018

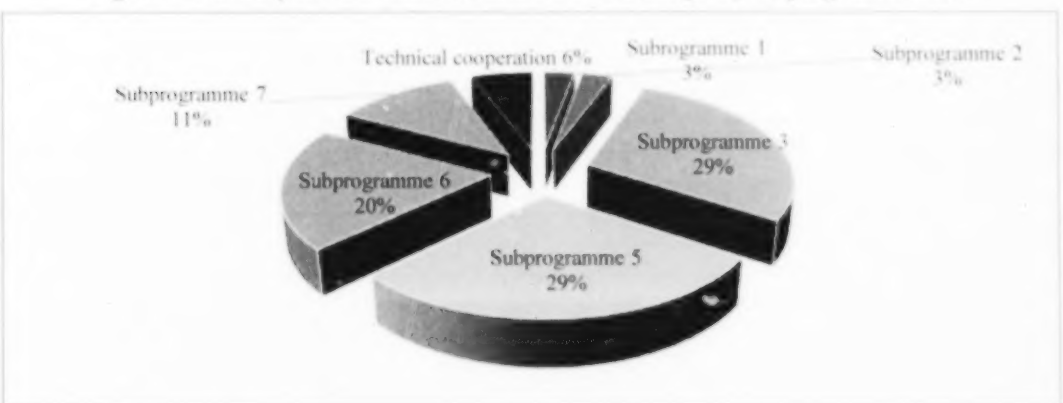
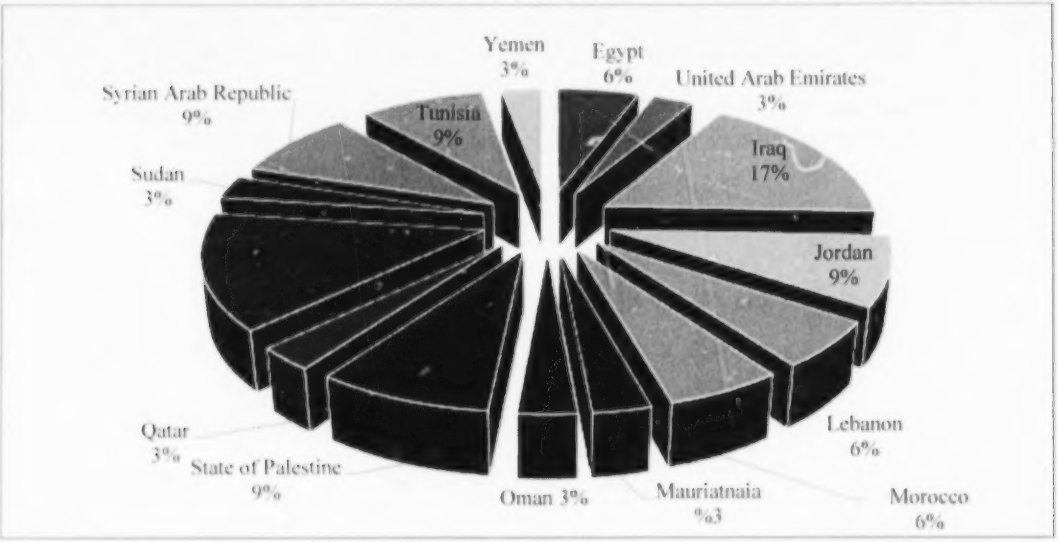


Figure 3. Advisory services financed from the RPTC budget by recipient country, 2018



IV. CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES FINANCED FROM THE RPTC BUDGET

22. ESCWA organized several capacity-building activities financed from the RPTC budget (table 2).

TABLE 2. CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES PROVIDED TO MEMBER STATES, 2018

	Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development	Social development	Economic development and integration	Technology for development and regional integration	Statistics for evidence-based policymaking	Advancement of women	Conflict mitigation and development	Total
Bahrain			1	1				2
Egypt			2					2
Iraq		1	1					2
Libya					1			1
Mauritania				1				1
Morocco				2				2
Oman						1		1
State of Palestine	1							1
Sudan				5				5
Tunisia							3	3
United Arab Emirates					1			1
Yemen						1		1
Total	1	1	4	9	2	2	3	22

Figure 4. Distribution of capacity-building activities financed from the RPTC budget, 2018

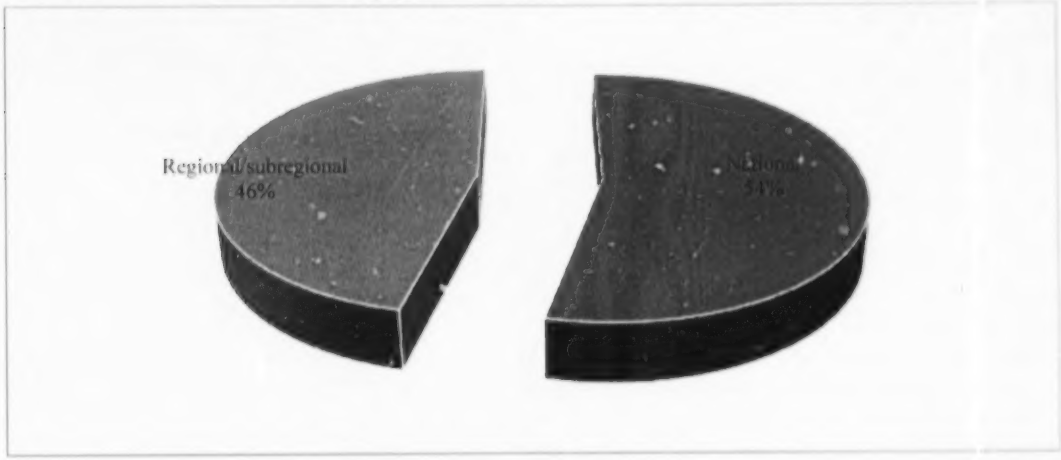
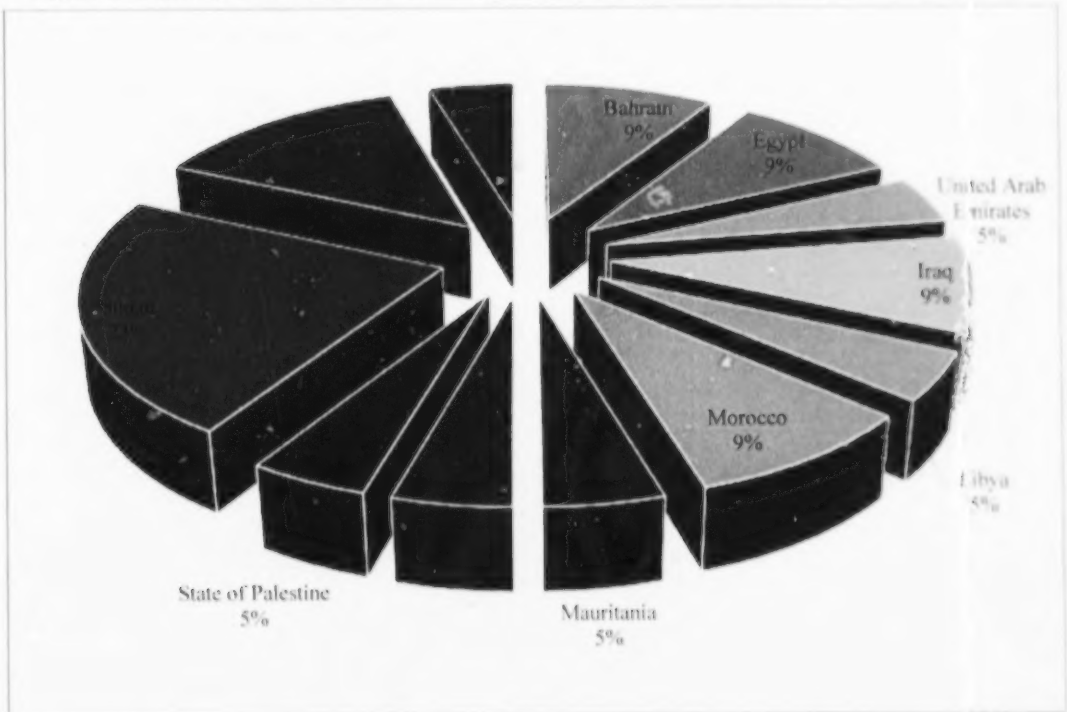


Figure 5. Capacity-building activities financed from the RPTC budget by recipient country, 2018



V. STUDY TOURS FINANCED FROM THE RPTC BUDGET

23. ESCWA organized three study tours for government officials, which complement ESCWA commitments and work on strengthening South-South cooperation and facilitating the transfer of good practices (table 3).

TABLE 3. STUDY TOURS FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, 2018

Activity	Country	Number of participants
Training on energy statistics and budgets, organized by the International Energy Agency (Paris, 19-23 March 2018)	Mauritania	1
Eleventh meeting of the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for Statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, organized by the United Nations Statistics Division (Rabat, 9-10 May 2018) Side events on mechanisms for funding statistics (Rabat, 8 May 2018)	Iraq	1
Meetings of technical subcommittees on national accounts and economic statistics, organized by the League of Arab States Statistics and information systems: - Twelfth meeting of the subcommittee on national accounts - Fifteenth meeting of the subcommittee on economic statistics (Headquarters of the League of Arab States, 16-18 July 2018)	Mauritania	1
	Iraq	1
	Sudan	1
	State of Palestine	1
	Total	6

VI. ACTIVITIES FUNDER FROM THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT

24. ESCWA completed 30 activities under the United Nations Development Account, including advisory missions, capacity-building workshops, expert group meetings and four training manuals (table 4).

TABLE 4. ESCWA ACTIVITIES FUNDED FROM THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT, 2018

	Number
Advisory missions	5
Training workshops	19
Expert group meetings	6
Training manuals	4
Total	34

VII. EXTRABUDGETARY ACTIVITIES

25. Under the eight technical cooperation projects funded from extrabudgetary sources, ESCWA held capacity-building workshops and expert group meetings and prepared three training manuals and 57 publications (table 5).

TABLE 5. ESCWA EXTRABUDGETARY ACTIVITIES, 2018

	Number
Training workshops	17
Expert group meetings	47
Training manuals	3
Publications	57
Total	124

VIII. CONCLUSION

26. ESCWA has linked its work on technical cooperation activities with its key functions in research, analysis and consensus-building to support policymaking. Under RPTC, it has striven to intensify efforts related to organizing workshops aimed at developing national technical cooperation plans that focus on identifying country needs. It has also organized multidisciplinary missions to provide integrated support to member States in tackling complex and multidimensional challenges.

27. ESCWA has continued its efforts to build strategic alliances with regional training institutions, think tanks and academic institutions to develop effective mechanisms for honing skills. Such alliances enable ESCWA to benefit from available expertise to rapidly respond to country requests for technical cooperation.

28. ESCWA is also working on forging partnerships with other United Nations organizations and stakeholders. In the coming period, it will develop plans in coordination with United Nations country teams, national focal points and ministries. This approach will allow ESCWA to respond to country requests more efficiently and effectively.